

World War Three – Chapter 19

You did notice that none of the Israeli Intelligence Agencies spell their names CIA, did you not. *Central Intelligence Agency... Now, there's a contradiction in terms.* How do you tell a Republican from a Democrat? Look them up on their personal website since most disclosed their party affiliation there.

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“Pinnacle – Nucflash, Pinnacle – Nucflash, Pinnacle – Nucflash. Time of the event 06:15:30 Zulu, Location of the event 33° 19' 30" N, 44° 25' 19.2" E. Standby for second event at 06:15:35 Zulu, Location of the second event 33° 30' 46.8"N, 36° 17' 31.2" E”

“This is STRATCOM. We concur that 2 Pinnacle – Nucflash events occurred at the same coordinates and time.”

“Locations?”

“Event 1, Baghdad, Iraq and Event 2 Damascus, Syria. No further events to report at this time.”

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“Between what the Israeli recovered and those we sank, whoever perpetrated these events may well be out of nukes for the moment.”

“How certain were the Israelis about the point of origin.”

“One hundred percent.”

“Since we intercepted and destroyed the weapons, would we gain anything by attacking the Point of origin?”

“Probably not... but Mr. President we can't allow them to get away with what they pulled.”

“I agree Mr. Chairman. It would be better if we let someone else handle it.”

“Do you have someone in mind?”

“The other aggrieved party. They have nothing to lose and we have everything to gain. How many Strike Eagles can we spare to give them a hand?”

“We could send them a maximum of 25. They're still in production. Do you want to send them the American versions or the Israeli version?”

“Do you know how many are in production at the moment?”

“No sir. We could check with Boeing.”

“You do that and I’ll call the Prime Minister.”

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“Mr. Prime Minister, we appreciate the tip. The ship is on the bottom of the Atlantic. Your Joint Strike Fighters aren’t ready for delivery, yet. I have my people checking on how many Strike Eagles we could provide you. Ok, BiBi then. Would 25 be enough for you folks to take care of the offending party?”

“Is it important which version we furnish, the E model or the I model? Yes, I’m familiar with the expression, *any port in a storm*. Well, I think I can persuade Congress to write off the cost of the aircraft since it’s little when compared to the cost of the event that could have happened had you not informed us.

“You’re aware of the nuclear detonations in Baghdad and Damascus? No, I’m not accusing, just asking. They shipped a package to both cities? I’ll be damned. Oh, it’s that Sunni-Shi’ite thing huh? Which weapons will you be using, the ones you have or the one you know nothing about? Yes, that could be a problem... let me call Moscow and tell them what’s happened and discuss proposed actions. Yes, I’ll let you know soonest. Thank you, goodbye.”

“Yes, connect me to the Russian President. Ah, General, what the word on the Strike Eagles? I see, E models including 6 new and the remainder with less than 2,000 hours. It will just have to do. BiBi said *any port in a storm*.

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“Mr. President, we have a situation that requires your input. Iran built a large number of Little Boy type nuclear weapons. They shipped four to Israel, an unknown number to the United States and one to Baghdad and one to Damascus. No, it wasn’t Israel, they were an intended victim. They captured the four weapons and I sure they could be persuaded to allow you to examine them.

“No we didn’t have a problem because the Israelis informed us immediately; we located the ship via satellite and sunk it in the Kings Trough. A Virginia-class using Mark 48 ADCAPs. Were you aware of the large scale sheltering system they built? You weren’t? According to sources in the know, it was large enough to shelter all of their educated population, military and military equipment.

“When they leave the shelters. That’s why I’m calling. We’re providing them 25 F-15Es in gratitude and the question is how you will react if they use the weapons they don’t

have? You know them; they'll keep at it until there's nothing left but rubble. It's actually a matter of what's quicker.

"I see, will you have to run that by the Duma? Ok, I'll pass the word. Don't expect it to happen until they have the F-15s and their target comes out of the shelters. Yes, you too."

"General get the planes and get them to the Israelis soonest, they have a go on whatever they decide to do."

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"Judy, there's a rumor on the Ham net that the government pulled 19 F-15Es from operational commands. Another guy said that Boeing was rushing completion of the 6 they have in production. Something is going on."

"Do you think it's that Middle East thing Rollin?"

"It almost has to be. Someone clamped down on the news media, almost like a black-out. Something happened somewhere that they don't want us to know about. I'll just keep listening to see what I can find out. Are we square of all those loose ends you wanted to attend to?"

"Yes, all my itches have been scratched and we have enough to last until we die."

"Don't talk about dying. The current life expectancies in the US have been rising due to the quality of available medical care. The life expectancy in the US is up to 79.8 overall with males having 77.4 and females having 82.2 years life expectancy. The highest in the world is Monaco with an overall of 87.2, male of 85.3 and female of 89."

"The best doctor in the world can't save you if you get shot in the head."

"Right and the Enhanced Combat Helmets are nothing but plastic."

"Do you think that some of the members of the public with military experience have hit armories and supply points and armed themselves, Rollin?"

"Some probably have. Some may have only served one enlistment years ago and may not be familiar with some of the modern weapons."

"So, the M-16 has been around since Vietnam and it hasn't really changed that much. And, it's just a select fire version of the AR-15. The military replaced the M9 because it was worn out and ineffective. Why they went with what they did is inexplicable because nothing beats the .45ACP."

“True, even the 230gr Full Metal Jacket has enough energy to put a person on their butt; and, no pistol cartridge will penetrate body armor.”

Would you listen to that conversation, she sounded like she had 37 years in the Army. It goes to show you how much of me rubbed off onto her. It wasn't like we'd been married 40 years either. When a couple spends lifetime together, they can finish each other's sentences and know what their partner is thinking, most of the time. That's something I won't claim is an absolute, but you know...

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So, the military didn't readopt the M1911? That would make too much sense, wouldn't it? Never mind that the special operators either use the .45ACP for its stopping power or the M9 due to availability. Standard .45ACP ball ammunition is subsonic and can be effectively suppressed. Our problem was my selection of the 200gr +P Gold Dot which was barely subsonic while standard 230gr Gold Dot was subsonic. The speed of sound is 343 meters per second. The velocity of 200gr +P was 330 meters per second and shouldn't have been a problem... extra hot loads? Standard military ball was rated at 250 meters per second and 230gr Gold Dot was rated at 271 meters per second.

In the Earth's atmosphere, the chief factor affecting the speed of sound is the temperature. For a given ideal gas with constant heat capacity and composition, sound speed is dependent solely upon temperature. In such an ideal case, the effects of decreased density and decreased pressure of altitude cancel each other out, save for the residual effect of temperature.

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Some Background:

Iraq was mostly flat compared to Afghanistan. Iraq has a narrow section of coastline measuring 58 km (36 mi) on the northern Persian Gulf and its territory encompasses the Mesopotamian Alluvial Plain, the northwestern end of the Zagros mountain range, and the eastern part of the Syrian Desert.

A landlocked mountainous country with plains in the north and southwest, Afghanistan is described as being located within Central Asia or South Asia. The population of Afghanistan was represented by 3 majority groups in 2012 accounting for 84% of the population; Pashtun 40%, Tajik 33% and Hazara 11%. The Taliban is an Islamic fundamentalist political movement in Afghanistan. It spread throughout Afghanistan and formed a government, ruling as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan from September 1996 until December 2001, with Kandahar as the capital. However, it gained diplomatic recognition from only three states: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates. Mohammed Omar has been serving as the spiritual leader of the Taliban since 1994.

While in power, it enforced its strict interpretation of Sharia law, and leading Muslims have been highly critical of the Taliban's interpretations of Islamic law. The Taliban were condemned internationally for their brutal treatment of women. The majority of the Taliban are made up of Afghan Pashtun tribesmen. The Taliban's leaders were influenced by Deobandi fundamentalism, and many also strictly follow the social and cultural norm called Pashtunwali.

From 1995 to 2001, the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence and military are widely alleged by the international community to have provided support to the Taliban. Their connections are possibly through Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, a terrorist group founded by Sami ul Haq. Pakistan is accused by many international officials of continuing to support the Taliban; Pakistan states that it dropped all support for the group after 9/11. Al-Qaeda also supported the Taliban with regiments of imported fighters from Arab countries and Central Asia. Saudi Arabia provided financial support. The Taliban and their allies committed massacres against Afghan civilians, denied UN food supplies to 160,000 starving civilians and conducted a policy of scorched earth, burning vast areas of fertile land and destroying tens of thousands of homes during their rule from 1996 to 2001. Hundreds of thousands of people were forced to flee to United Front-controlled territory, Pakistan, and Iran.

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, the Taliban were overthrown by the American-led invasion of Afghanistan. Later it regrouped as an insurgency movement to fight the American-backed Karzai administration and the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, ISAF. The Taliban have been accused of using terrorism as a specific tactic to further their ideological and political goals. According to the United Nations, the Taliban and their allies were responsible for 75% of Afghan civilian casualties in 2010, 80% in 2011, and 80% in 2012.

The Taliban are Sunni Muslims. Remember that, it might become important.

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The first picture of the territory claimed by the new Caliph obviously includes Pakistan, Afghanistan and portions of western India. Most people either think of India in terms of sacred cows, cobras or providing most of the American Tech Support. They have the 2nd largest population in the world, following only China. What people overlook is the fact that India is a major military power. That they're a nuclear nation is given, but, they have Hydrogen Bombs, those high yield 3-stage devices.

India has over 600 million men and women of military age although they don't have conscription. The Indian Army has 124 Mk1 tanks in service, 124 Mk2 tanks ordered with speculations that the number might increase to 500+. The Mk2 is comparable to the latest generation US, UK, German and French Main Battle tanks and has a 120mm rifled cannon. They even have a Tank Urban Survival Kit, TUSK.

Their Air Force has Su-30MKI, MiG-29, HAL Tejas, Dassault Mirage 2000, over 200 ground attack aircraft, C-17, Il-76MD, C-130J, AWACs, tankers, old Hinds and new AH-64 Apaches, etc.

The Arihant class (Sanskrit, for Slayer of Enemies) is a class of nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines being built for the Indian Navy. The lead vessel of the class, INS Arihant, was launched for sea trials by August 2013. Four vessels are being built and are expected to be in commission by 2023. One is in sea trials, 2 are under construction and a total of 6 are planned.

If those Sunni invade India, they're in for a surprise almost as bad as if they invaded the US. Am I big on my expectations of the US military? Absolutely... we kicked butt in WWI, won WWII, lost Vietnam because of our leaders, not our enlisted and the same could be said for Iraq and Afghanistan. There is nothing more fear inducing than a pissed off 19 year old American Soldier, Marine, Sailor or Airman. I saw that on TV, way back when. It was a reference to Vietnam, I believe.

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“Heard a new rumor on the Ham net.”

“What?”

“Those F-15Es ended up in Israel as E models. Everyone knows the Israel is a nuclear power, regardless of what they do or don't say. Israel has 25 I models so 25 E models would double their force of strike fighters. I wonder who they are going to strike and what Russia will say about it if they do.”

“Maybe the President made arrangements with Russia.”

“Yeah, I can just see that. ‘Hey Vlad, buddy, Israel is going to nuke Iraq, Syria and Iran to force Hamas to back off.’”

“Maybe there is more to it Rollin. We're not always in the loop because of World War Three and the Seismic Activities.”

“Point taken Judy; I hate not knowing what is going on!”

Rollin was making an assumption about what Israel was going to do. Israel still hadn't decided what they were going to do. GBU's, cluster bombs and a full assortment of Paveway bombs were in their arsenal and they didn't have to open the can of worms that using nuclear weapons represented. If they could quickly develop their own MOABs, maybe they wouldn't need nukes.

Obama may have been the ‘worst’ president since WWII and Clinton the ‘most popular’ president since WWII, but who was the ‘best’ president since WWII. My vote would be

for Reagan because how could you not like a guy who liked jelly bellies and told his wife, 'Honey I forgot to duck'? He broke the Soviet Union, literally, with his 600 ship navy and Star Wars Defense. We never got to 600 ships and Star Wars was a movie, a concept not realized until he was dead and buried.

The program included:

- Recommissioning the Iowa-class battleships
- Keeping older ships in service longer
- A large new construction program
- Stepped up production of Nimitz-class aircraft carriers
- Adding Ohio-class SSBNs
- Building more 688I class
- Building the Seawolf-class
- Building the Ticonderoga-class Cruisers

Things were different under H.W. because we lost 2nd Amendment rights, with his import ban. Judy and I like the M1A, but... there's nothing wrong with the HK91 or HK93 if you like that style of weapon. They worked well because they were made by H&K and H&K made high quality products.

Funny thing about the government... they retired the Iowa-class and all 4 became museum ships. That doesn't mean they couldn't reactivate them. All the parts required to repair Iowa's turret #2 are inside turret #2. The ships cost \$100 million each to build and there was the refit that may have cost as much as the ship due to inflation. During the refit, the fuel used was also changed as each battleship was overhauled to burn navy distillate fuel and modernized to carry electronic warfare suites, close-in weapon systems (CIWS) for self-defense, and missiles.

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What the heck is going on in the Middle East? After the discussion on the Ham net about the Strike Eagles actually being sent to Israel, everyone seems to be asking what's going on and no one has an answer. Neither Judy nor I really believe in conspiracy theories but that could change in a New York minute. I do believe in UFOs because anything you see flying in the sky that you can't identify is by definition an unidentified flying object. I don't believe in little green men or anything like that.

Then there was that fuss between Congress and the Navy over the Ticonderoga-class. The Navy started upgrading them before I retired and had half upgraded before money got tight.

Due to Budget Control Act of 2011 requirements to cut the Defense Budget for FY2013 and subsequent years, plans are being considered to decommission some of the Ticonderoga-class cruisers. For the US Defense 2013 Budget Proposal, the US Navy is to decommission seven cruisers early in fiscal years 2013 and 2014.

Because of these retirements, the US Navy is expected to fall short of its requirement for 94 missile defense cruisers and destroyers beginning in FY 2025 and continuing past the end of the 30-year planning period. While this is a new requirement as of 2011, and the US Navy has historically never had so many large missile-armed surface combatants, the relative success of the AEGIS ballistic missile defense system has shifted this national security requirement onto the US Navy. Critics have charged that the early retirement of these cruisers will leave the Navy's ship fleet too small for the nation's defense tasks as the US enacts a policy of "pivot" to the Western Pacific, a predominantly maritime theater. The US House has passed a budget bill to require that these cruisers instead be refitted to handle the missile defense role.

By October 2012, the US Navy had decided not to retire four of the cruisers early in order to maintain the size of the fleet. Four Ticonderoga-class cruisers, plus 21 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, are scheduled to be equipped to be capable of antiballistic missile and antisatellite operations.

I doubt that has anything to do with what is going on in Israel. Maybe Israel intends to challenge the new Caliphate. That would explain them increasing their fleet of strike fighters from 25 to 50. Maybe Judy and I should drive over to Lake City and ask TOM his opinion. TOM doesn't seem to be short on opinions, just answers. But it would get us out of the house for a day or two.

"Want to go over to Lake City tomorrow?"

"What for?"

"I thought it would be nice to get TOM's opinion about what's going on in the Middle East."

"He doesn't know any more about it than you do. He always has an opinion, even when he's wrong. I would like to see that 'combat wheelchair' that his son put together for him. So sure; loaded for bear?"

"Not that it's necessary, but sure."

Judy assembled some of the Nitro-Pak Hungary Man MREs, coffee, a roll of bath tissue, the folding toilet from her foxhole plus a care package for Elizabeth. TOM was always talking about the Cure 81 hams and she got a whole ham from the freezer, 10 pounds of thick sliced bacon and 10 chubs of Jimmy Dean whole hog sausage. I got 12 cans of Folgers, 12 cartons of Kool's, a jug of Vermont Maple Syrup and 2 5 pound bags of pancake mix.

Early the next afternoon we were past Jonesboro and getting close to Lake City when the pickup began to swerve. I let it slow down naturally and pulled to the shoulder. Judy was looking at me and asked, "Earthquake?"

“It wasn’t very big and didn’t last long but it makes me glad I didn’t locate here when I retired.”

“I’m happy too, since I was working in Mountain Home and we would have never met.”

“Good point. Let’s see if we can get there without any further excitement.”

Spence had given me his address and it was easy to find. There sat TOM in his ‘combat wheelchair’, dozing. I noticed he had the 590A1 instead of the Loaded M1A across the arms of the wheelchair.

“TOM, its Smoke and Judy,” I yelled... he was hard of hearing.

He jerked awake and squinted at us and then waived.

“What brings you two across the state?”

“We come bearing gifts and I need your opinion on something.”

“What gifts?”

At least he had his priorities straight.

“Judy brought a care package for Elizabeth and we also brought a Cure 81 ham, 10 pounds of thick sliced bacon, 10 chubs of Jimmy Dean whole hog sausage, 12 cans of Folgers, 12 cartons of Kool’s, a jug of Vermont Maple Syrup and 2 5 pound bags of pancake mix.”

“Damn, that was good syrup. Let me show you where everything goes and we’ll make a pot of Folgers and sit a while and discuss your question about the Middle East.”

“How did you know?”

“I didn’t. It does seem logical what with those Sunni declaring a new Caliphate. Did you know that Baghdad and Damascus were taken out by nukes?”

“I hadn’t heard that.”

“Can’t prove it but I think it was Iran’s doing. They’re Shi’a and the Shi’a and Sunni don’t get along. Iraq has a majority of Shi’a but Saddam was a Sunni and this IS thing probably got under the skin of those religious leaders in Iran. The president over there is a puppet of the Ayatollah. Way I heard it was the bombs that got the two cities were Little Boy types. They’re running thousands of centrifuges to produce HEU but I don’t have any idea how much Plutonium they’ve been able to extract.

“The three primary research and production sites of the Manhattan project were the plutonium production facility at what is now the Hanford Site, the uranium enrichment facilities at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and the weapons research and design laboratory, now known as Los Alamos National Laboratory. During the Cold War, the US reactors at Hanford and the Savannah River Site in South Carolina produced 103 metric tonnes of plutonium. SIPRI, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, estimated the world plutonium stockpile in 2007 as about 500 tons, divided equally between weapon and civilian stocks.

“I know that Iran has Plutonium extraction capability due to President Ford, but I’d be guessing if I say that they don’t have much. Since the bombs in Baghdad and Damascus were HEU and the gun type is the easiest to construct, I’m thinking Iran was behind those bombings. What I don’t understand is why they didn’t ship bombs to Israel and the US.”

“Maybe they did and the bombs were somehow intercepted. The US government and Israeli government might not be talking about it.”

“If that’s the case, I’d put my money on the Israelis intercepting the bombs sent to them and notifying the US. If they identified the ship, maybe the US located it by satellite had a Virginia-class waiting for it. Then to avoid bad publicity, they put the Jews up to getting even. That would explain the Strike Eagles.”

“You know about those?”

“Everyone knows about those.”

“Nineteen, right?”

“Twenty-five and you know it. They pulled nineteen of the newest from operational commands and added the 6 just coming off the production line.”

“You don’t let much get by you do you?”

“Hah, I can’t remember what I had for breakfast or even if I had breakfast. If I had cold cereal it was Grape Nuts or Special K with Vanilla and Almonds and if I had hot cereal it was Malt-O-Meal. Either way, if it’s cold cereal I have to let the cereal soak up the milk so I can gum it to death. It could have been peanut butter on toast too.

“Can the two of you stay for supper? We have a fresh pot of beans cooking, the last of the goulash and fresh baked bread. If you don’t eat many beans, we have Beano.”

“We really should get back.”

“Why? You have a delivery coming or something? I would really appreciate someone to visit with other than family; especially 2 preppers that I can compare ideas with.”

“Judy?”

“Okay.”

“Tell me something TOM, where do you get your ideas from?”

“Sometimes newspaper articles, something I see on TV, something someone says, even a favorite song. There are over 1,000 downloads from YouTube on my computer and I caved in and got Real Player Cloud so I could play them all. That’s not all I have on the computer since I have about 300 PAW fiction stories, including my own and most of Jerry’s.

“David was really in his element with the North to Alaska series. I didn’t appreciate *Don Quixote de Palmdale*, but I knew where he was coming from. I just didn’t feel like laughing at myself at the time. I may be senile but I’m not that bashful. Five bucks is five bucks.”

“What are you talking about?”

“Whether my nurse was a natural blonde or redhead.”

“And the only way to tell was if she stripped?”

“Exactly.”

“You men are awful.”

“That’s the truth, Judy. We’re rotten to the core.”

“So is Israel going to nuke Iran or not?”

“Not.”

“Why not?”

“Given that everyone has known about the nukes since the revelations in 1986 by Mordechai Vanunu, a technician at the Negev Nuclear Research Center who served an 18-year prison sentence as a result. Israel has not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, but supports establishment of a Middle East Zone free of weapons of mass destruction. Given that, no one really knows what they have, just that they have them.

“If they use them, the cat is out of the bag whereas if they don’t, everyone is left guessing just like we’ve been guessing for years. If I were BiBi, I’d go conventional. An F-15E can carry how many 2,000 bombs, four, maybe six? I don’t really know but the payload

is awesome. Using 1,000 pound bombs, the total is probably close to double that. So 50 aircraft with, say six, 2,000 pound bombs is 600,000 pounds per trip.”

“Close, TOM; 5 GBU-10 Paveway II which is built around the Mk 84; stations LCT 1, LCT 3, RCT 1, RCT 3 and station 5.”

“Close counts, huh? Fifty planes with 5 bombs each is 250 2,000 pound precision guided bombs per sortie, 500,000 pounds per trip. So they make an extra trip or two, big deal. The Iranians will think they’ve been invaded by the whole US Air Force considering the F-16s the Israelis have. Don’t they have their own guidance package that’s supposed to be better than the JDAM?”

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July 1, 2013 at 3:23 PM

TEL AVIV, Israel, July 1 (UPI) – Israel is reported to be seeking US loan guarantees of \$5 billion to finance the purchase of the advanced weapons systems the US administration has offered the Jewish state under a \$10 billion package for its Middle East allies.

These include AGM-88 HARM anti-radiation missiles made by the Raytheon Corp., that can knock out air-defense radar systems and Boeing KC-135 Stratotankers that will greatly extend the reach of Israel’s strike jets.

In the long term, the procurement of the US arms package will be financed by US military aid which in fiscal 2013 will total \$3.1 billion, the highest total for any US ally.

The bridging loans, the US journal Defense News reported, would be arranged with US commercial banks to cover the intermediary period. The weekly said both Israelis and US sources expect a response concerning the loans request by this summer.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Yaalon pressed US Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on this when he visited Washington in mid-June, Israeli sources say.

The unprecedented upgrade of US-Israel security cooperation followed the July 17, 2012, passing of US President Barack Obama’s United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act.

It was widely supported by Republicans and Democrats and extended until the end of 2014 the funding provided by the US government placing emergency US arms stockpiles on Israeli soil in case of war.

The Israel segment of the military aid package, which also includes weapons systems for Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, covers advanced radars for the Israeli Air Force’s F-15I aircraft and up to eight V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft manufactured by Bell Boeing.

All these systems would significantly enhance Israel's capability to launch pre-emptive strikes against Iran's nuclear infrastructure, which Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has repeatedly threatened to unleash.

The reasoning behind offering Israel such a cornucopia of advanced weapons systems and long-range capabilities would seem to be to reassure Israel that the United States stands behind the Jewish state, but does not want it to launch any attack on Iran while the diplomatic efforts and an international sanctions regime are in play.

The AGM-88 missile, first used in combat in March 1986 by US jets against a Libyan SA-5 surface-to-air missile site in the Gulf of Sidra, would be a substantial upgrade of Israel's current AGM-78 anti-radiation missiles.

The advanced radars for Israel's 25 F-15I Ra'ams and the Ospreys, aircraft which can land like a helicopter and each carry two dozen fully equipped Special Forces soldiers over long distances at aircraft speeds, also would provide greater offensive capabilities for any operation against Iran.

The Osprey "is the ideal platform for sending Israeli Special Forces into Iran" observed Kenneth Pollack, a former Central Intelligence Agency analyst who is currently at the Brookings Institution's Saban Center for Middle East Policy.

The unique tilt-rotor aircraft would give Israel the capability of inserting special ground forces to either attack Iranian facilities such as the new uranium enrichment plant buried deep inside a mountain at Fordow, outside the holy city of Qom south of Tehran, that may be resistant to even the heaviest US-made bunker-buster bombs designed to penetrate hardened underground facilities, or to "paint" targets with lasers for the attacking aircraft.

Jonathan Schanzer, executive director of the Foundation for the Defense of the Democracies in Washington, said the US package conformed to an Israeli wish-list presented to the Pentagon that included some items that were not discussed publicly, presumably because they were intended for an assault on Iran.

Details of the arms package have yet to be revealed. It's not known how many weapons and aircraft will be sent to the three countries, nor are delivery dates.

"The timeline of delivery will dictate when Israel can use these weapons," observed the US global security consultancy Stratfor.

Although it's not clear how many KC-135 tankers Israel will get, it's expected to be enough to sustain a major air strike that would most likely involve all of the air force's 25 F-15Is and 100 F-16I Sufas, its entire strategic strike force, and its seven KC-707 and four KC-130H tankers.

The current tanker force would not be able to support a force of that size receiving at least two mid-air refuelings during the 1,000-mile flights to and from the targets. Add a couple tankers to the list, they're old and worn out anyway.

World War Three – Chapter 20

“I believe that Israeli system is called the ‘SPICE’, an acronym for Smart, Precise Impact, Cost-Effective, an Israeli-developed, EO/GPS-guided guidance kit for converting air-droppable unguided bombs into precision guided bombs. It’s supposed be much better than the JDAM. The Israeli ‘SPICE’ is comparable to the American EGBU-15, which also combines EO and GPS guidance and can be fitted to a variety of warheads.

“On the ground, an unguided bomb is fitted with a ‘Spice’ guidance kit. Still on the ground, each bomb’s memory may be loaded with up to 100 different targets, complete with their image (usually acquired by imagery intelligence) and geographical coordinates. The bomb is then loaded on a strike aircraft. In the pylon to which the bomb is attached there is a datalink between the aircraft’s cockpit and the bomb.

“As the aircraft flies in the air and approaches a target, either the Weapon Systems Officer (WSO – the backseater in such aircraft as the F-15E Strike Eagle or F-16I Sufa) or pilot (in single-seat aircraft) can use the TV/IIR display in the cockpit to see the image the bomb sends to him. Once he selected one of the preprogrammed targets, or fed the bomb with a target himself (by feeding it with either an image or geographical coordinates to home on), the bomb is ready for release into a guided trajectory.

“Once the bomb is released, it begins searching its target in order to acquire it and home on it. This can be done in several ways:

“First, there is pure CCD or IIR (for low lighting conditions) image matching, when the guidance section uses algorithms in order to match the target image in its memory with the image provided by the seeker, and align the center of the seeker’s FOV with the desired image.

“Second, if the CCD/IIR seeker cannot acquire its target for any reason (such as visual obstructions), the bomb can automatically switch to GPS/INS guidance. This means that the bomb aspires to bring itself to the target’s altitude at a known geographical location. The bomb receives data on its current location from GPS satellites, or from an inertial navigation system in the bomb itself, that has been fed, through the pylon datalink, with the dropping aircraft’s coordinates a fraction of a second before drop, and can therefore calculate its own coordinates from the dropping time and on.

“Third, there is a manual ‘man-in-the-loop’ guidance option, in which the WSO looks at a backseat TV display in order to see the seeker’s view (sent to him through a RF datalink) and uses the backseat stick to control the bomb all the way to the target. With a skilled WSO that has a ‘sensitive hand’, this guidance method is probably the most accurate one employed today for air-dropped munitions, and has no measurable miss distance. Its main drawback is that it allows for only one bomb to be guided at a time.”

“How many of the late version F-16s does Israel have Smoke?”

“They have about 100 TOM.”

“I’ll take those odds. It will be the reverse of Osiraq with F-16s flying cover and the F-15s delivering the weapons but whatever works.”

“We’re assuming a lot.”

“Life is a gamble from the day you’re born until they plant you. Did you know that for every year you live your life expectancy increases?”

“What’s that got to do with the price of tea in China?”

“Not one thing. What it has to do with is my goal of outliving my father by a single day with every day after that a bonus.”

“Spence mentioned that.”

“Just so you know, I picked the name Derek and his mother picked his middle name after her maiden name. I don’t call him Spence... *hey you* works most of the time.”

“You don’t call him Doc?”

“My dad had a mechanic named Louie Bauer and he called everyone Doc just to irritate them and I was his favorite to pick on because he liked me; so, in a word, no.”

“Do you like anybody?”

“Some more than others but I can count them on my fingers. Now, I’ve had a couple of dogs and a cat I was partial to. I divorced Sharon and then figured out what a damn fool I was and she accepted me back. Pure luck from my point of view, but dammit, I let my sense of morals get in the way. I had the hots for some broad and my ethics slash morals said it wasn’t right to run around on my wife; so naturally I had to get a divorce. Turns out, she’d have let me run around as long as I didn’t bring home anything that wasn’t gift wrapped like a STD. Dumb, dumb and dumb.”

“So life hasn’t been a bowl of cherries?”

“I wouldn’t say that, but cherries have pits. Got a question; when I’m gone do you want the firearms and matériel back?”

“What for? We have more than you have and probably closer to 10,000 rounds per rifle, 2,500 per handgun and more shotgun shells than we’ll ever use.”

“Good, I have someone in mind for the firearms. Bought my oldest son the M1A Loaded, 590A1, a Taurus PT1911B-1 and a Walther PPK in .380ACP. I have a grandson I only met when he was about 21 and I had him in mind. He’s not quite as good as Derek,

but like they say, the apple doesn't fall from the tree. An empty shotgun is just a club unless you have a bayonet."

"Did you get a bayonet on your rifle?"

"I told you I've always had good luck with Machinist Mates. It was a model of 1942 with 16" blade. And, believe you me; Derek has it sharper than my Rambo knives. The same goes for the Laredo Bowie. Being old and shaky and hating to shave I haven't tried to shave with it but it's almost sharper than a razor."

"Where's Derek?"

"Either in Jonesboro at the University or running around playing soldier, again; I gave up trying to keep track."

"Have you had any trouble over here?"

"Define trouble."

"Attack to get your resources or things of that nature?"

"Not lately. We just shoot, shovel and shut up. And you should know how it is in these small towns."

"Mountain Home is down below 3,000 people and has been since Yellowstone."

"If my count is right, I've based three stories in that locale."

"How are you on long term supplies?"

"We have ground beef, round steaks, garden produce and locally grown rice and plenty of great northern and navy beans. I also have 25 pounds of pinto beans. I'd have more but Sharon doesn't care for them."

"Where is the rest of your family?"

"I think they shopping but don't hold me to that."

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Meanwhile...

Before the bombs had detonated, the Caliph had spent a week in Syria handling problems his fighters were experiencing and had returned to Baghdad 3 days before the timers were set to detonate the bombs. Again he went into the field to handle pressing issues and when the 2 bombs detonated and was neither in Damascus nor Baghdad.

He and his advisers had two immediate suspects, Israel and Iran. They were next on his list; Israel via Hamas and Iran by direct invasion. The decision was made to finish with the tasks at hand before attacking the two. Hamas could keep Israel busy for the moment and little activity had been noted in Iran.

It's well that he waited because Israel mounted a massive bombing campaign against Iran, reducing the cities to rubble and attempted to destroy multiple underground locations. Were these Iran's nuclear facilities or something else? He concluded, rightly so, that Iran was behind the bombings and Israel had made his task tackling Iran far easier.

Israel assumed that bombings of Damascus and Baghdad were Iran's attempt to take out the new Sunni Caliph and in this they were correct. They, like Iran, assumed the attempt was successful. In this, both were wrong. That last little push by the Caliph had completed putting Iraq and Syria in his Caliphate. Iran was easier than Israel so they moved on Iran. Beside, having supplied Hamas with additional missiles, Hamas was giving Israel fits.

◦

TOM took time, every little bit, to check on the beans and Judy offered to take over the task so he and I could visit. She even baked the bread when it was ready to go into the oven and found powdered sugar to make a glaze for the cinnamon rolls, using almond and vanilla extracts to flavor the glaze. We had a midafternoon snack with Folgers and cinnamon rolls slathered in butter.

◦

Israel reacted to the Hamas as they typically did, with bombing attacks. Their Iron Fist system had been upgraded and had an improved ability to determine whether or not to attack an incoming missile. Plus, it rarely missed an incoming missile it decided to hit. When the bombing attacks failed to produce the hoped results, they invaded... like they always did. With Israel tied up in their Gaza invasion, IS was able to roll through Iran with little resistance.

The Caliph now had to decide between Israel and Turkey. He opted for Turkey for several reasons, not the least of which was Israel experiencing difficulties dealing with Hamas. Turkey mostly followed the Hanafite school of Sunni Islam. ISIS is known for its harsh Wahhabist (Saudi Arabia) interpretation of Islam, and brutal violence directed at Shi'a Muslims and Christians in particular. The Kurds, who are mostly Sunnis, in the northeast of Iraq were unwilling to be drawn into the conflict, and there were clashes in the area between ISIS and the Kurdish Peshmerga. Kurds are found in Iran, Syria, Iraq and Turkey. They kicked butt and don't bother with the names.

How had Saddam managed Kurdish Genocide? The al-Anfal Campaign, also known as the Kurdish Genocide, Operation Anfal or simply Anfal, was a genocidal campaign

against the Kurdish people (and other non-Arab populations) in northern Iraq, led by the Ba'athist Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and headed by Ali Hassan al-Majid in the final stages of Iran-Iraq War. The campaign takes its name from Surat al-Anfal in the Qur'an, which was used as a code name by the former Iraqi Baathist government for a series of systematic attacks against the Kurdish population of northern Iraq, conducted between 1986 and 1989 and culminating in 1988. The campaign also targeted other minority communities in Iraq including Assyrians, Shabaks, Iraqi Turkmens, Yazidis, Jews, Mandeans, and many villages belonging to these ethnic groups were also destroyed.

The Anfal campaign began in 1986 and lasted until 1989, and was headed by Ali Hassan al-Majid, a cousin of Saddam Hussein from Saddam's hometown of Tikrit. The Anfal campaign included the use of ground offensives, aerial bombing, systematic destruction of settlements, mass deportation, firing squads, and chemical warfare, which earned al-Majid the nickname of "Chemical Ali".

Thousands of civilians were killed during the anti-insurgent campaigns stretching from the spring of 1987 through the fall of 1988. The attacks were part of a long-standing campaign that destroyed approximately 4,500 Kurdish and at least 31 Assyrian villages in areas of northern Iraq and displaced at least a million of the country's estimated 3.5 million Kurdish population. Amnesty International collected the names of more than 17,000 people who had "disappeared" during 1988. The campaign has been characterized as genocidal in nature. It is also characterized as gendercidal, because "battle-age" men were the primary targets, according to Human Rights Watch/Middle East. According to the Iraqi prosecutors, as many as 182,000 people were killed.

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"Let me introduced everyone. This is RJ Reynolds and his wife Judy. This is my wife Sharon, daughter Lorrie, daughter Amy, Amy's two children Audrey and Udell. The other three are Derek's children Elizabeth, Joshua and Thomas.

"Judy has kept an eye on the beans and they're ready. She also baked the bread and cinnamon rolls. I don't know what she used for glaze but it was outstanding. I invited them to supper because it's a long drive back to Mountain Home."

"I'm pleased to meet you RJ and Judy. I didn't intend on putting you to work, but we ended up running late."

"Sharon, call me Smoke."

"Are you the folks that gave Gary all the weapons?"

"Yes, they belonged to a friend who died of radiation poisoning."

"He can't use the Tac-50 because it's too heavy."

“You know Barrett makes a soft mount for their M107. Maybe we could figure out something similar for the Tac-50. Since we have 2 Tac-50s and a Tac-338, I’ll look into it.”

“Great. Having him equipped with that cannon will make my day.”

“It’s not that loud.”

“Oh, I know that, I’ve heard Derek shoot it. I’m not sure he can handle the recoil.”

“It shouldn’t be bad in a soft mount because the pintle takes up much of the recoil and the A1R2 has as recoil mitigation feature.”

“What’s a pintle?”

“A pintle mount is a fixed-mount that allows the gun to be freely traversed and/or elevated while keeping the gun in one fixed position. It is most commonly found on armored vehicles, gunner stations on bomber aircraft, and helicopter gunships. Unlike a turret, a pintle has little or no armor protection.”

“I’m sure that Derek can get some ballistic Lexan.”

Sensing something in Sharon’s mood, I suggested that Judy explain how we just dropped in unexpected and Gary invited us to stay to have someone to visit about preps with. She should also explain our concern with the Middle East situation and how we’d come to pick Gary’s brain for ideas. After explaining, Judy returned carrying a magnifying glass and Sharon’s statement of, “Good Luck.”

“What’s with the magnifying glass and the ‘Good Luck’ statement?”

“I think the magnifying glass is to locate his brain and the “Good Luck’ refers to getting any useful information from him.”

“He’s not that far gone since we’ve already gotten useful information from him. He’s collaborated our theories about the Middle East if nothing else.”

“He does seem to understand the ramifications of what the new Caliph is trying to accomplish. If they do go after Iran, who would be on their list?”

“Best guess, some of the Emirates or Israel. On the other hand, they might go for Turkey to get a foothold on Europe.”

“Wouldn’t they want to tie up the Middle East before moving against a NATO country like Turkey?”

“I forget about Turkey being a member of NATO. Would NATO respond?”

“You’re asking me? Answer your own question.”

“NATO would respond because they’re looking for an excuse to go up against the IS.”

“Rollin, I think we should make some excuse to leave after supper. Rather than driving home, we can find a motel. I saw several along the way, many of which were in Jonesboro.”

“Derek did say they’re wall to wall people so I agree. TOM pretty much confirmed our suspicions and did fill in some missing information. I’ll explain the soft mount to Derek if he shows up and he’ll have to get something mounted to the wheelchair to accept the pintle. The difficult part will be attaching the pintle to the rifle.”

Derek didn’t show up and we left after supper and found a motel on the east side of Jonesboro. I was concentrating on the mount, not the pintle and decided a step mount like they used on the Willys Jeep, the M38 Jeep step mount would put the rifle at the appropriate elevation, 24”, to be used by someone sitting in a wheelchair. The Barrett rifles had pins holding them together which the Tac-50 lacked.

If we couldn’t engineer a solution with the Tac-50, we could look for a Barrett Rifle and mount one of those on the wheelchair. Barrett had a suppressor and the BORS plus 10 round magazines. Their soft mount absorbed the recoil and TOM had written about the Barrett in many of his stories. That would also let Spence keep the Tac-50.

Barrett claimed their most accurate rifle was the model 99, available in .416 or .50BMG. Of course the 99 was a single shot bolt action rifle with barrel length of 32” Heavy (81.3 cm) or 29” Fluted (73.7 cm) .50 BMG only. That would never do so we decided on the M107 due to the two extra features it included: the M107 was issued with “spike feet” bipods, and the 82A1 was issued with “smooth feet” bipods; also, the M107 was issued with the monopod, but the monopod was optional for a Model 82A1.

Looking at the road atlas, we could tell that we were almost halfway to Murfreesboro, TN. We had our traveling money since one never knew when some cash, gold or silver would come in handy.

The trip to Murfreesboro took the entire day. We got another motel when we arrived and went out to eat. At best, getting a Barrett rifle was a longshot. After breakfast, we got directions and drove to Barrett’s. I explained we came to make a purchase and asked if we could talk to Chris or Ronnie. We met with Ronnie because Chris was unavailable.

“Mr. Barrett, my name is RJ Reynolds and this is my wife Judy. We’re here to make an unusual request and the focus of the request is your soft mount. We have a close acquaintance, who due to age can’t handle the McMillian Tac-50A1R2 we gave him. He’s essentially wheelchair bound and has one of the oversized 600 pound capacity wheelchairs.

“After some consideration, we feel the solution to his problem is your M107 with a soft mount, BORS and your new suppressor.”

“That’s the M107A1 now.”

“If we can convince you to, and you’re willing to sell the firearm, we can pay in cash or gold. I think the step mount like they used on the Willies Jeep would put the rifle at the appropriate elevation to be used by someone sitting in a wheelchair. As I said, we’re interested in purchasing the M107 with the BORS and soft mount will solve his problem. Do you still have BORS with bundled scopes or would we have to locate a separate scope?”

“Assuming we’d sell you a rifle?”

“That goes without saying since neither of us has a FFL.”

“Are you acquainted with a FFL who could accept the shipment?”

“Yes, several.”

“Are you prepared to pay the full MSRP?”

“Whatever it takes. And we need 11 magazines in total.”

“Where are you from?”

“Mountain Home, Arkansas.”

“And the person you intend to give the rifle to?”

“Lake City, Arkansas.”

“Color Preference?”

“Black parkerized finish.”

“Accessories?”

“Part kits for sure and whatever you recommend.”

“You said cash or gold?”

“Your choice with gold valued at spot.”

“Why are you doing this?”

“The guy is an author and he and another author have educated us about prepping and entertained us at the same time.”

“TOM or Jerry?”

“TOM.”

“Why didn’t you say so?”

“I didn’t know you knew who he was.”

“Those 2 have more than a few fans. Of course TOM stopped recommending the M82, moving to the Tac-50 due to the perceived accuracy claims. Believe me, it’s the shooter who makes for an accurate rifle. Jerry seems to like Vigilance VR-1 in .408 CheyTac. They’ve even brought out their own semi-auto .50BMG.

“I’ll tell you what I’ll do. I’ll supply an M107A1, the extra magazines, the suppressor, the BORS including a Nightforce 8-32x56mm scope, mounted, an AN/PVS-27 and a soft mount installed, all at cost. Don’t go looking for serial numbers because nothing will have one. Can you stay over for the night and see me here tomorrow around 8am?”

“Absolutely.”

“Do you need ammo?”

“We’re well supplied with Mk 211MP and Hornady 750gr AMAX. Will the rifle be ready to go with everything mounted and tuned?”

“That’s why I asked you to come back tomorrow. Gold is running around \$2,500 an ounce so 8 gold Eagles will cover everything; can you handle that?”

“One, two, three, four, five, six, seven and eight.”

“See you in the morning.”

It was as simple as that. I noticed that the rifle and suppressor didn’t have serial numbers. He didn’t even ask if TOM was still alive, taking our word that he was. It was a long drive back to Lake City. When we arrived, Derek was there and was astonished at our return.

“I was told you left to return to Mountain Home.”

“That’s what we said; however we decided to Murfreesboro, Tennessee.”

“Was Barrett open?”

“Oh yeah and we picked up a one of a kind, an M107A1 fully equipped including a soft mount absent serial numbers. If you can't get a M38 Jeep step mount for the pedestal, let me know and I find something somewhere. Anyway the light fifty is engineered for the soft mount and the rifle came with it installed. If the soft mount pin is different from the regular pin, I'm sure Barrett included it.”

“Barrett the company or Barrett the man?”

“Ronnie Barrett himself saw to getting what we wanted put together. Funny thing, I wasn't sure he would go for it until I brought up you dad and Jerry.”

“Why would that make a difference?”

“Just guessing but early on they had high praise for the M82A1. Your dad switched to the Tac-50 and Jerry to the Vigilance VR-1 in .408 CheyTac, which Mr. Barrett noted. By the way, we had to pay for the equipment but got it for what he claimed was cost. Can you get a pedestal and mount it on the wheelchair?”

“I'll figure something out or he'll have my head. Since you got him the M107A1, does that mean you want the Tac-50A1R2 back?”

“Heck no, more is always better, ask your dad. Everything is supposed to be ready to go but I don't know if the scope bore sighted at 100 meters or actually sighted in at 100 meters. How are you fixed on .50BMG ammo?”

“As you may recall, I started out with 26 cans of Mk 211 along with 16 cases of the 750gr AMAX. I've used one can of Mk 211 including the loaded magazines and one case of the AMAX including the loaded magazines. Do the math, $25 \times 120 = 3,000$ rounds of Mk 211 and $15 \times 200 = 3,000$ rounds of the AMAX plus the loaded magazines.”

“So, with 2 rifles now, you're short about 1,000 rounds of each?”

“How did you arrive at that number?”

“The Barrett website used to give an average barrel life of 4,000 rounds.”

“I think the Tac-50 is better than that; say 6,000+ rounds depending upon circumstances.”

“So, you have 6,000 rounds and would need an additional 4,000 rounds to the limit of the barrel life?”

“If your estimates of barrel life are accurate, yes.”

“I'll see what I can do.”

“Things are different these days.”

“In what way?”

“With the computerized inventory system, things tend to not turn up missing.”

“That only goes so far Derek; someone still has to place the order and enter the quantity received when the goods arrive. There probably as many crooked Supply Sergeants now as there were before. Remember, a gun doesn’t pull its own trigger and Supply Sergeants still have needs above their level of military pay. Yes, the computer automatically generates a request for an investigation when one computer says 6 were shipped and 4 received, but so what?

“The greater the value of the missing items, the deeper they investigate. No crooked Supply Sergeant would be stupid enough to store the stolen items in supply or in his/her residence. In fact, they probably wouldn’t have a safety deposit box at their bank.

“The AMAX is the easier of the two because it comes in 200 rounds cases so you’ll need 10 cases. The Mk 211 comes in 120 round cans and you’ll need 17 of those. Like I said, let me see what I can do.”

“And, I’ll find the appropriate pedestal.”

“Why don’t you wait to tell your dad until after you have the pedestal mounted and tested?”

“Good idea.”

World War Three – Chapter 21

While I'd never seen that particular pedestal, I did confirm that the soft mount pintle was standard. Therefore, any pedestal that met the military standard would work and the only adjustment that would be required would be to the height, shortening it to 24". My first stop was at a metal recycling dealer where I described what I was looking for.

"I don't have one that short, will longer work?"

"How long is the one you have?"

"Forty-eight inches... four feet."

"How much?"

"I'll weigh it and will let go for the retail price we usually charge for scrap."

"What do you mean by retail?"

"It's just like any other metal, buy low... sell high. We earn our income on the difference. It's steel and steel sells for more than cast iron for example and aluminum sells for more than steel since it's almost totally recyclable."

"Ok, weigh it and give me a price."

"Twenty dollars."

"Cash ok?"

"Got any precious metals?"

"I wish."

"A dollar just isn't worth what it once was so for cash, I'll have to have 25 dollars."

"Here you go."

"I hope it works out for you, whatever it is you're trying to do."

"Know a good welder who can cut out 24 inches from the middle and rejoin the top and bottom sections?"

"Yeah, me."

"How much to do that?"

“Call it another 25 dollars.”

“I need it as straight and as strong as it was before you started, when you finish.”

“Come back in two hours.”

“Right.”

It probably didn't take the full time because when I returned, he'd ground down the new seam, primed and painted the pedestal with Rust-Oleum and it wasn't sticky. The color was 'primer gray'.

“Judy... Judy... there you are. Check this out.”

“What is it, the pedestal?”

“Yes it is.”

“It looks brand new.”

“The one I found was 48” tall so I had it shortened and he ground down the new seam, added primer and painted it.”

“How much?”

“Fifty dollars because he didn't think the dollars was worth as much.”

“Smart man... does this mean another trip to Lake City?”

“Yes, it does.”

“When?”

“The day after today.”

“Tomorrow?”

“That's always a day away. But yes we're going tomorrow.”

“But we're coming home as soon as we drop it off, right?”

“We'll have to stick until Derek gets home.”

“That's fine... but I don't really want to have to stay for a meal because TOM's wife Sharon was really stressed out.”

“In that case, you can leave early and get a motel room and come back later and pick me up. That reminds me, we should sort out the ammo they’re short on from our stocks. I know we can get the Hornady and that Mk 211 might not be the problem it has been in the past. I have an idea about that but won’t voice it until I’m sure.”

What I was thinking about was the ammo supply point for Arkansas. If anyone knew, it should be Derek. If I explained my problem replacing the Mk 211, maybe he could help out. Heck if he knew where the Arkansas ammo supply point was, he could get his own Mk 211 and we’d just give him the Hornady. We weren’t really short on the AMAX anyway. Although the Hornady has a case price of \$1,000, depending on the source, I/we had miscounted and had 10,000 rounds rather than 8,000 rounds. At the time, I wondered where the money went, until I inventoried the ammo.

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There was action occurring every day... in far off places. We must have picked up a rep of being a place not to fool with because nobody did. Ask yourself if you would fool with someone that carried 3 handguns, only 2 concealed, and a shotgun in the rifle rack at the minimum and a total of 10 long arms when they were serious. Not only were our vehicles equipped with that coded security plug under the dash, but they had cut out switches for the fuel pump. We sort of preferred the Service body because it had so many hiding places.

The trip to Lake City went smoothly because Derek was home (it was a Saturday) and he hadn’t found a pedestal. He did have a sheet of ½” plate to mount the pedestal on and we got it installed before supper. Judy had already gone and gotten a motel room and was back to pick me up. She told me that Sharon seemed to be in a better mood when she got back from the motel.

The setup was adjustable 2 ways: the bolts mounting the plate to the wheelchair could be loosened and the plate moved in the slot and bolt holes for the pedestal were prepared as slots. TOM watched what we were doing and said we’d read too many of his stories. But how, he wondered, were we going to attach the pintle to the Tac-50.

“We’re not going to attach it. The Tac-50 isn’t like a Barrett with mounting pins that you can use to attach a soft mount with the pintle.”

“But, I don’t have a Barrett!”

“Are you sure?”

“Absolutely.”

“Well... you’ve got one now, the M107A1 with suppressor, BORS and a Nightforce 8-32x56mm scope, mounted, an AN/PVS-27 and a soft mount installed. Don’t try to pick it up.”

“Magazines?”

“A bunch.”

“Ammo?”

“We brought more Hornady and your son should be able to get some more Mk 211.”

“Where are the M61s?”

“Sorry about that. Can you throw a grenade far enough to be out of the blast radius?”

“Don’t have to, I have 40mm grenades.”

“If that’s the case, why did you ask?”

“I actually just wanted to have more.”

We had dinner at a local café and returned home the next day. He wanted to hold one because he’d only seen pictures? Strange little man, who still had fire in his eyes and in his voice.

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The Caliph was very unhappy that several close companions had been killed by the Iraqis and he had his revenge with heads being lopped off left and right. The first to go was the Ayatollah followed by the Iranian President and senior military officials when they were captured. This man was filled with hate and if he wasn’t careful, that hate would be his undoing.

Although the Saudis had placed 300,000 troops on their border with Iraq, he didn’t attack them because they were about 25 million people who are Muslim, or 97% of the total population. Excluding foreign workers, about 100% of its population is Muslim. Data for Saudi Arabia comes primarily from general population surveys, which are less reliable than censuses or large-scale demographic and health surveys for estimating minority-majority ratios. About 85–90% of Saudis are Sunni, while Shi’as represent around 10–15% of the Muslim population. The official and dominant form of Sunni Islam in Saudi Arabia is commonly known as Wahhabism (a name which some of its proponents consider derogatory, preferring the term Salafism), founded in the Arabian Peninsula by Muhammad ibn Abd al-Wahhab in the eighteenth century, is often described as ‘puritanical’, ‘intolerant’ or ‘ultra-conservative’.

However, proponents consider that its teachings seek to purify the practice of Islam of any innovations or practices that deviate from the seventh-century teachings of the Islamic Prophet Muhammad and his companions. The Caliph was a Wahhabist and the

description of Wahhabism certainly applied to how he did business... which was Jihad. After all, ISIS has captured and employed surface-to-air Stinger missiles, M198 howitzers, DShK guns mounted on trucks, anti-aircraft guns, self-propelled guns and at least one Scud missile.

When ISIS captured Mosul Airport in June 2014, it seized a number of UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters and cargo planes that were stationed there. However, according to Peter Beaumont of The Guardian, it seemed unlikely that ISIS would be able to deploy them.

ISIS captured nuclear materials from Mosul University in July 2014. In a letter to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Iraq's UN Ambassador Mohamed Ali Alhakim said that the materials had been kept at the university and "can be used in manufacturing weapons of mass destruction". Nuclear experts regarded the threat as insignificant. International Atomic Energy Agency spokeswoman Gill Tudor said that the seized materials were "low grade and would not present a significant safety, security or nuclear proliferation risk". Famous last words?

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"It seems to me that we may not live to see Caliph Ibrahim complete his plans to expand the Caliphate to incorporate the entire world Muslim population under his control. I mean they're fierce fighters and have managed to raise a well-disciplined Militia with significant financial resources. They should be able to find people familiar with the captured military equipment skilled enough to put it to good use."

"Assuming I buy that Rollin, to what purpose?"

"My initial thought was that they'd go for the Emirates or Israel next. They might overrun the Emirates next but I'm beginning to think they plan on attacking Turkey next. That will work as long as they can avoid a confrontation with the Kurds. With Turkey conquered they can work over Kurdistan."

"Why not Israel?"

"The Islamic State apparently lacks nuclear weapons and they'd be foolish to tackle Israel face to face. Israel has managed to avoid a nuclear confrontation with their Arab neighbors since they developed the weapons. Remember what I said about them not using what they have to avoid the world knowing exactly what they do have?"

"If Osama bin Laden was able to infiltrate 20 terrorists for the 9/11 attacks, there is no reason to believe the Islamic State can't do the same. ANNM worked well for Timothy McVeigh for the 1995 bombing in Oklahoma City and the nature of the explosives was well documented on Wikipedia.

“The 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, 1995 Oklahoma City Bombing, and the successful 9/11/01 second attack on the World Trade Center are covered in detail at several different locations. It’s almost a roadmap for terrorist targets. Freedom Tower has replaced the World Trade center and the Pentagon was quickly repaired.”

“What would they gain by attacking targets in this county other than angering the population and the government? After our experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq, the government and the people will think twice before getting involved in that mess. We’ve been beaten down between WWII and the seismic activity. We’ve lost a significant portion of our population between those two events.”

“They’re religious crackpots, so they don’t really need a motive, now do they?”

“I hope you’re wrong Rollin.”

“So do I Judy, so do I.”

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Unfortunately, Rollin was only half right. He was correct that they didn’t need a motive and he was incorrect when he assumed the Islamic State lacked nuclear weapons. Iran had been in the final stages of building the plutonium based ‘hydrogen bombs’ (fission-fusion-fission) which had an expected yield of 20-25mT. It was basically an assembly line process and they had 12 completed and 4 more on the assembly line. One of the ‘military’ shelters was in fact both nuclear assembly facility and a military bomb shelter that no one suspected. While the IS lacked the wherewithal to complete the last 4, they now had a dozen and 2 enemy states that ranked #1 and #2 on their list, Israel and the United States.

Unfortunately for the IS, they killed the people assembling the hydrogen bombs when they attacked Iran. The IS was very much aware that the majority of strikes on the US by China were counter-force and that Washington and New York were counter-value and the strike on Oklahoma City was counter-value/force. They didn’t know that the strike on Washington had been done by Russia.

The IS suspected that the rumor that Israel had captured 4 ‘atomic bombs’ that had supposedly been manufactured by Iran was probably true. When one of their soldiers found records indicating that 20 such bombs had been manufactured and 18 were loaded aboard a Panamanian registered cargo vessel and shipped to the State of Israel and the United States of America while the two leftovers went overland to Iraq and Syria, they began to understand why Damascus and Baghdad were bombed.

There were no indications that the 14 bombs intended for the US ever reached the US. A careful investigation showed the ship never reached its destination and was listed as ‘missing and presumed lost’. The IS presumed that either a Los Angeles-class or Virgin-

ia-class had sunk the cargo ship. All three of the Seawolf-class were supposedly home ported in the Puget Sound.

Sometimes knowing both sides of the story, ruins the story and sometimes it doesn't. Neither Rollin nor Judy knew both sides of the story. If anything, the IS probably had a better handle on what had happened than the average US citizen because RP was holding the cards so close to his vest and hadn't said anything other than he'd won one for the Gipper. Or, did you lose sight of the fact that RP is a politician?

Any person who thinks terrorists are stupid isn't a student of history. They've forgotten about the Archduke and every other terrorist event since the beginning of the 20th Century. The 21st Century has more than its share of terrorist events, too, witness 9/11/01 as a starting point. Russia invaded the Crimea to support pro-Russian terrorists and someone shot down a commercial passenger jet flying over the eastern Ukraine.

That doesn't include World War Three or the Russian attacks on Beijing and Washington either. Only Vlad and RP know about the attacks on Beijing and Washington. So what if Putin cut off gas to Europe, he was being sanctioned over the shoot down of that airplane, among other things. Vlad was an opportunist and Barack's only diplomatic tool was threats. When RP confronted Vlad, it was a totally different story.

Was RP bluffing? Only he knows for sure although I am sure the Chairman of the JCS probably believed him, Vlad did. He claimed that all the Russian boomers had a Virginia-class nearby with the torpedo hatches open. Some of the submarine movies predated the Seawolf and Virginia classes so I don't really know if the Borei class could hear the torpedo tubes opening. Then again, why take a chance? It would be easy to open the hatches before closing on the Borei.

That was yesterday's news. The current news was focused on Arab Spring and World War Four. The IS had 12 functional (?) hydrogen bombs in the 20-25mT class and the same enemies as Iran had, Israel and the United States. They decided to use 2 on Israel and the other 10 on the US. The bombs going to Israel would be transported by truck, much the same as Iran had done to Damascus and Baghdad. They now controlled Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Iran plus several African counties.

The problem they faced was getting those massive 25mT bombs to the US because Iran had mastered the technology but not the miniaturization. The bombs weighed something on the order of 10 metric tonnes, double the weight of the old US 25mT bomb, the Mk 41. Ten bombs equaled 100 metric tonnes. Getting them to the US was far less difficult than unloading them from the ship and moving them to their ultimate destinations.

The weapons were heavy but not massive and could easily be stored in the tanks of a supertanker of crude oil, assuming they could get the US to accept a shipment of crude. They hadn't tackled the UAE yet or Kuwait; and, the US and Kuwait were on relatively good terms because of the First Gulf War. The plan slowly took form and the weapons

would be removed from the supertanker just before it entered the Gulf of México. They would be transferred to shrimp boats and unloaded in Louisiana.

*Shrimp boats is a-comin'
Their sails are in sight
Shrimp boats is a-comin'
There's dancin' tonight
Why don't-cha hurry, hurry, hurry home
Why don't-cha hurry, hurry, hurry home
Look here! The shrimp boats is a-comin'
There's dancin' tonight – Jo Stafford Thunder Bay 1953*

[Yes, I saw the movie several times. It starred James Stewart, Joanne Dru, Dan Duryea and Gilbert Roland, among others. Stewart gets his oil platform built but has a problem, shrimp are clogging the system. The shrimpers are angry because they think the oil platform is scaring the shrimp away; ending by Walt Disney.]

The IS hadn't finalized their plans because they weren't sure they could get the weapons beyond US security. They chose to store the weapons in 10 different storage facilities in New Orleans until they could identify the 10 best targets.

o

"TOM called, Rollin."

"What's up?"

"He said to tell you that the Saudis couldn't have put 300,000 troops on their border with Iraq because they only have 233,500 active duty military and 25,000 reserves. He went on to say that the IS was going to take Jordan next and move against the other Middle Eastern states saving Turkey for last.

"Apparently they mopped up Iran after Israel had finished with the country. The Middle East, he says, includes Bahrain, Cyprus, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Northern Cyprus, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen."

"Did he have any idea about the order they'd tackle the remaining countries?"

"Only that Turkey would be saved for last."

"Remember what I told you about Turkey? When the IS takes Turkey, they'll have a foot on Asia and Europe."

"We're getting a little long in the tooth to fight World War Four."

“I rather suspect we’ll be dead and buried long before we have a World War Four. We should make arrangements with TOM’s family to collect our weapons, ammunition and matériel when we’re gone. I’ll call and set it up. How about we set up a comm schedule and if we don’t communicate per the schedule, they come here and check on us?”

“Maybe his older son will just move here and take up residence.”

“That would be even better.”

World War Four – Chapter 1

We drove over to Lake City and established the communications schedule. TOM didn't pay much attention to us, he was lost in a world of his own, talking about World War Four and how Einstein got it wrong.

"As long as modern weapons can be preserved, we won't be fighting with sticks and stones. We may be using the old fashioned black powder firearms but black powder is nothing more than 75% nitrate, 15% carbon and 10% sulfur."

"What do you use?"

"Pyrodex rifle and Pyrodex pistol with the appropriate caps. It's a direct substitute by volume for black powder. We segregate the .45 Colt rounds into rifle and revolver rounds. I think the Vaqueros could handle the rifle rounds if one could maintain control of the revolver. What brings you two over here?"

"Estate planning; we intend to leave our firearms, ammo and matériel to your family."

"Property too?"

"Everything."

"That might work for Derek Jr. He was raised in Bolivar, Missouri north of Springfield."

"Is he any good with firearms?"

"He's second best in the family behind his father."

"TOM, we've got to get back to meet with the lawyer tomorrow to draw up our wills."

"Drive carefully."

We made it back just after sunset and the crockpot chili that had been cooking all day on low was ready to eat. Our appointment with the lawyer was scheduled for 10am the following day in Mountain Home.

Neither of us was impressed with the lawyer. His first comment was how hard it would be transferring property to non-relatives. Although we assured him we had no living relatives and rather insisted that one couldn't find someone who didn't exist, he disagreed. That tore it for us and we paid for the initial consult and looked for another lawyer.

When we got home, I got on the radio and contacted Derek, asking if there any good lawyers in Jonesboro.

“How many do you need?”

“One, if he’s as good one.”

“There are plenty of lawyers here. I can’t speak for how good they are... what are you looking for?”

“Someone to draw up our wills.”

“I’ll tell you what, you have someone draw them up and give to my dad to read before you sign them.”

“Why?”

“Before dad went to law school, my grandfather insisted he and mom get wills. Grandpa even picked the lawyer. So mom and dad went to the lawyer and made their wishes known. The law firm put together some boiler plate and called them up to come in and read the will. There something about it that just struck dad wrong and he asked if they could take it home and read it.

“The bottom line was the law firm made a mistake with their boiler plate and under certain circumstances, mom’s parents would end up with the entire estate. Dad got a referral to law school out of the deal.”

“But if I remember correctly, he quit law school.”

“Yes he did because law school gave him ulcers. He claims that’s where he learned about situational ethics and decided it wasn’t his cup of tea.”

“Literally or figuratively?”

“What are you talking about?”

“The tea; what does he drink?”

“Lately Bigelow Earl Grey, Darjeeling and Jasmine when he can find it.”

“We’re coming over tomorrow to check out the lawyers. I told your dad yesterday that we’re leaving everything to your family when we’re both gone. That includes the firearms, ammo, matériel, the cabin, shelter, fuel, electrical sources and the whole shebang.”

“Why?”

“Well, why not? We don’t have any remaining family to leave it to and I’ll be damned if I’ll leave it to Baxter County.”

“Thank you in advance.”

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We left for Jonesboro a little after sunup and had the sun in our eyes most of the way to Jonesboro. We checked into the motel we usually used and I pumped the desk clerk about who he thought was the best lawyer in town. He said it depended on what type of lawyer we wanted. Several specialized in business law, some in estate planning and still others in criminal law. I told me we wanted someone specializing in estate planning. He gave me names of the two best state planning firms, in his opinion.

We called the firm he said was probably the best and made an appointment for the next day. With little else to do with the remainder of the day, we did a lot of shopping and a little sightseeing. Jonesboro had taken it on the chin when Yellowstone spread and triggered the New Madrid. They were close to finishing the rebuilding.

One set of equipment we bought was climbing equipment. It included 2 11mm static ropes 600' long and 2 12.5mm climbing ropes 1,200' long plus his and hers body harnesses, climbing helmets, assorted carabineers, mechanical ascenders and a large assortment of pitons. The waterproof ropes were 2 layers consisting of an inner core and a braided outer sheath. With only a few exceptions, we'd be able to handle most of the mountains in Arkansas and Missouri. We also managed to buy more ammo including the M855A1, green (lead free) ammo plus enough fill in Black Hills to round out our stock of 168gr and 175gr. Ammo wasn't getting any cheaper, either.

“Good morning, I'm Joseph Hill, how can I help you today?”

“My name is RJ Reynolds and Judy and I need wills drawn up and frankly the first lawyer we talked to wasn't much help.”

“Is there anything unusual about your circumstances that caused him problems?”

“We have no surviving relatives to leave our estates to and have decided to leave everything to a local man here who teaches History at the University. Our estate consists of a small acreage south of Mountain Home in Baxter County. We want to leave Professor Ott the property and everything on it. His oldest son, Derek Junior will probably take up residence. Is there a simple way to convey everything that would amount to lock, stock and barrel?”

“Patriot or retired military?”

“I'm both and Judy and I got married after I got out of the Army.”

“Do you concur Mrs. Reynolds?”

“Absolutely. Father and son have the same names, Derek Spencer Ott. The Professor generally refers to his son as DJ for Derek Junior.”

“This sounds like a simple will and we could have it ready for your review tomorrow. Do you want to leave everything to Senior or Junior?”

“I don’t know. Do you have any suggestions?”

“Not really, it will be up to you to decide.”

“Can you do it both ways?”

“Sure, it’s only as difficult as adding Senior or Junior after the name. I’ll need information about the property being conveyed and identifying information for each of you.”

“We brought the deed and both have our driver’s licenses, social security cards and military identification cards. Is that enough?”

“More than enough. How about 3pm tomorrow?”

“How much is this going to run us?”

“Two hundred fifty dollars or one-tenth ounce of gold if you happen to have gold.”

“We’ll pay with gold.”

“I rather expected that and that’s why I offered.”

“The only thing wrong with gold is that you can’t eat it.”

“My sentiments exactly. Tomorrow at 3?”

“We’ll be here.”

His secretary copied our identification and retained the deed so they could include the legal description of the property in the will.

o

“First Sergeant, the wills will be ready tomorrow but a question came up. Should we name you as the beneficiary or Derek Junior as the beneficiary?”

“DJ. If I do happen to accumulate any sizeable estate, it would be better for him to have it to avoid estate taxes. From outward appearances your property appears to be essentially undeveloped except for the cabin and outbuildings. I’m relatively sure that your electrical setup won’t use up your lifetime exemption.”

“But the fuel...”

“Who knows beside you and the fuel companies?”

“You do have a point because most of the fuel was purchased. Plus there are rebuild kits for the generator engine and alternator.”

“Use the generator much?”

“We run it every 2 weeks for 15 minutes under a full load.”

◦

The wills were simple one page affairs and he had his secretary print out one of each after we told him Derek Spencer Ott, Junior was the beneficiary. He even added a provision for the surviving spouse to live out their remaining days on the property, if they so chose.

After we signed them and his secretary notarized them, he had two copies of each run off, one for the beneficiary and one for us. We dropped off the copies and headed home. He said he'd file the document with the county recorder and hold copies of the recorded document for DJ and us.

◦

IS had finally decided where to place those 10 25mT bombs... in the major cities that China hadn't hit and that escaped the ash fall. Sort like if the left one don't get you, the right one will... he may have had a big mouth but he was a great boxer. One of those targets was in Missouri in the new national capital, Saint Louis. It was an easy target, put the bomb on a barge and move it up the Mississippi River.

For the sake of protecting the bombs from the crude oil, each had been placed in a 20' Conex. Aside from the problem of fitting the Conex on the shrimp boats, they had little trouble storing the bombs around NOLA. Their plan allowed for contingencies because no plan survives first contact with the enemy. If you've followed the antics of IS, you must realize how successful they've been.

Remember Matthew 24:36: “But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only.”

Only the Caliph and a few select members of IS knew the hour and day of the attack to come. Only the Caliph and one trusted aide knew everything. They had been successful because of OpSec and cruelty. IS trucked the bombs through the West Bank and into Israel and placed one in Tel Aviv and the other near the closed down Dimona Nuclear

Facility. [Closed in 2012 due to concerns about the reactor and threats from Hamas and Iran. Hamas had fired missiles at it in 2012 and 2014.]

Israel was under the misunderstanding that IS was saving them for last in the Middle East because they were an undeclared nuclear power. They caught Iran attempting to sneak in atomic bombs and had warned the US, earning them additional US Government aid. IS was saving Saudi Arabia for last because they were Wahhabi. They hoped to persuade the Saudis to join them in taking over the world because the Saudis had the money they needed to expand from their foothold in Turkey.

China hadn't bombed Denver due to the limited weapons and had concentrated on Colorado Springs, Anderson AFB and the Mountain. The same could be said for several large cities because of the weapons limit. Fortunately for China, Yellowstone and the Cascades had taken out cities they would have targeted had they more weapons.

Although RP had identified St. Louis as the new capital, the construction was ongoing and he spent every free moment traveling the country with his Secret Service detail determining who need what when. Since the White House Detail didn't have a lot of time preparing for his trips, they did the next best thing and clamped a press blackout on his activities. A permanent press pool traveled with the President and SS and they only knew where they were going next when they arrived.

IS had selected those major cities that would hurt the US the most if they were taken out because they were generally industrial centers or involved in food production. California's drought had ended and the big valley was in full production. The rail systems were repaired and or upgraded to transport the food where it was needed. Several states produced large quantities of citrus and they too were included in the plan to feed the survivors. These were all counter-value targets.

The most seriously affected states were the Dakotas with their production of beans curtailed. The Department of Agriculture was doing its best to line up other producers, even for the short term. Iowa's production of corn, soybeans and pork fell off because of the ash fall and Wisconsin's production of cheeses fell, but California picked up much of the slack.

With my military pension and Judy's Social Security we were in reasonable condition financially. So we refilled both the STS and LTS foods first and topped off the fuels. After that, we went looking for ammo. More is better and would you rather have it and not need it or need it and not have it? While 1 turn in 10 might be ideal for 175gr 7.62x51mm, it didn't mean you couldn't shoot it in a 1:11 barrel or 147gr in 1:11 or 1:10 barrels.

For most of its existence .45ACP was 230gr FMJ ammo and it hit them almost hard as JHP. In fact the fact that the .45ACP put them on their butt was more important than anything else. Given a choice between a 12 gauge shooting 3" magnum shells and a .45ACP put the shotgun way ahead of a .45ACP. Plus for the people who couldn't han-

dle the recoil there was the low recoil LEO ammo. Any legal questions about the hollow point and the Mk 211 had been resolved by JAG lawyers and didn't apply to us because we were civilians and could even use soft point hunting ammo, which Black Hills also happened to manufacture. We weren't Black Hills sales representatives; we also recommended Hornady, Winchester, Remington and several the commercial brands when they were available.

Judy suggested that she'd like to drive up to St. Louis and do some shopping so I checked the bank balance and available precious metals and we made plans for the trip. It was about 250 miles and a trip of 4½ hours. We went loaded for bear but used Steve's Service Body truck and would pick up a U Haul in St, Louis if we got carried away.

We spent the afternoon of the first day shopping for things Judy wanted. The morning of the second day, we hit gun dealers looking for ammunition. We had lunch and headed back the way we came, arriving home around 6pm. She stated supper while I unloaded the truck, and U Haul. I was able to turn it in in Mountain Home and returned just as she was setting supper on the table.

The next morning about 8am the WR602 went off. The announcement was brief, the US had been attacked with 10 triple signature hydrogen bombs in the 25mT range and the cities included the capital, St. Louis. They didn't announce the other 9 cities attacked and we heard the now standard announcement to take cover.

"Do you realize that had we delayed our trip by a single day, we'd probably be statistics now Rollin?"

"The thought did occur to me Judy but I'm more interested in the other 9 cities they struck. Apparently the nukes were detonated at ground level and the fallout potential is extremely high. I'm going to see if we can raise TOM or Derek on the Kenwood and offer them shelter here."

"For all we know, they're already on the way."

"True, I doubt ASU is open for classes. Are we short on anything we can get at Wal-Mart in Mountain Home?"

"We're okay on food and short on feminine hygiene. From what Sharon told me, Elizabeth, Audrey and Lorrie will need the supplies."

"Why not Amy?"

"She uses Depo-Provera. But she may not be able to get the shots so maybe we should add her to the list."

"I think we'd better both drive up because it's likely to be a mob scene."

“What are we taking?”

“Handguns with the 590A1s in the pickup.”

“I have cash leftover from our trip to St. Louis. How about you?”

“Yes, I have some cash but I wonder if our debit cards will work. I used my card more often in St. Louis than actual cash.”

“Well either way, we should have enough. Did you check the charge level on the batteries?”

“Yes, they’re at 99%. Let me get the shotguns and we’ll be ready to go.”

We had a choice of wearing the PT1911s and Hi-Powers in right side paddle holsters, Andrew Leather Monarch holsters or IWB holsters. Judy opted to wear the Browning in her Monarch rig, the Walther in her ankle holster and carry the Taurus in her Galco Purse. I opted to carry my Taurus in the paddle holster, my Browning in my Monarch rig and the Walther in the ankle holster because I don’t carry a purse and lacked an IWB holster for the PPK.

My shopping list was very short because we’d just stocked up on cigarettes and ammunition in Missouri and I only needed some beer, Chivas and Drambuie. I doubted TOM had gone off the wagon since he had about 20 years sober. Besides, Medical Cabinet 2 was full of booze and he didn’t have a key.

When we returned home, we had company from Lake City.

“I thought about trying to get you on the radio but it slipped my mind. Have any trouble getting here?”

“The usual; Dad wanted to sit in the front yard and catch the warhead. I finally convinced him that the weapons were bombs, not warheads, and Jonesboro was an unlikely target. I’ll need a hand with his wheelchair because it’s so heavy. We’ll have to leave it in the cabin because ramp is too steep. It’s not a problem, he has a regular wheelchair.”

“Did you bring everything?”

“All the firearms, ammo and ordnance and the food we had on hand which pales in comparison to what you have.”

“We went up to St. Louis shopping the day before yesterday and returned yesterday stopping for smokes on the way home. We have about 22 years of food for one plus extra beans, rice and coffee.”

“Beano?”

“A full case. Anyone in your family claustrophobic?”

“Not that I know of, but we have Xanax 0.5 mg and Hydrocodone APAP 10/325 running out our ears. Since Mom, Dad and Amy take insulin, they each have about a year’s worth of that along with 18 months’ worth of their other medications except aspirin and Benadryl which they have about 2 years’ worth. Fortunately, they’re all generics except for the insulin.”

“Have they announced any of the 9 other cities?”

“Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston were announced on the Weather Radio on the way over. The President was on the road so he missed the St. Louis bomb.”

“Did they say where he was?”

“He was in Murfreesboro, Tennessee discussing the XM109 with Ronnie Barrett. Apparently Barrett found a way to overcome the excessive recoil because of that silencer they developed.”

“That’s the one with the \$25 ammo isn’t it?”

“The first fielding test in Afghanistan of the XM-25 used hand built rounds that cost \$1,000 each. The initial low rate production (ILRP) rounds run about \$55. The Barrett rifle has greater range than the XM-25 and is more accurate. Plus the M109 is an upper that can be swapped out for the .50 caliber upper.”

The weather radio went off and they announced more cities: Dallas, Phoenix, Philadelphia, San Antonio, San Diego and Seattle.

“Those are some of the largest cities,” Tom said. “I did some research for some stories and identified the 101 largest cities. Each of those cities had a population exceeding one million, except for the new national capital. Even its Metropolitan Statistical Area exceeded one million.”

“Whodunit?”

“My money is on IS. I don’t know; maybe Iran did develop a hydrogen bomb and they had more plutonium than anyone thought. There’s just so much we don’t know and ‘winning one for the gipper’ doesn’t tell us crap. If they follow the pattern that Aaron laid out in *Normal*, we’re in for some very hard times.”

“Was that you and David Murphy he mentioned in *By Law*?”

“Yeah, he wrote and asked if it was okay and I told him to go ahead. The other guy, Chris, I think went by Freedom of the Hills. He wasn’t going to end it like he did, but the threats apparently worked. You didn’t know until the very last if it was Charlie or Lori that survived. I think he intended to leave it hanging.”

“Dad, I just picked up an English language radio conversation from the Middle East.”

“I suppose they got Israel too.”

“Two bombs, same size, one in Tel Aviv and one near the Dimona Nuclear Facility.”

“I doubt that Israel stores their nukes at Dimona.”

“I agree and that mean they’ll probably turn the Middle East into a glass parking lot.”

“With all the Russian alliances with the Arab countries, Russia will probably finish off the Middle East and turn to us because of our support of Israel.”

“Maybe; don’t count you chickens until they hatch.”

Considering some of the targets, Judy and I urged everyone to get their things and put them in the shelter. Gary and Sharon had several bags of Jasmine rice, small and large white beans, pinto beans, beano, shell corn, coffee, cigarettes, their medications and plenty of Charmin. Apparently he practiced what he preached. While they didn’t have a grinder, they had hard red wheel and durum wheat and several cases of pasta sauce. Apparently Sharon would only eat that brand of pasta sauce and she got that at Sam’s Club. They also had an assortment Bigelow tea plus Swiss Miss ‘for the kids’.

◦

Russia was tired of paying off the US for the attack on Washington and when Israel began nuking the Middle East, they attacked Israel per mutual support agreements and the US because of the relationship between the US and Israel. Many of the American power players were Jewish and the pressure to retaliate on Russia would, they thought, result in the US succumbing to the pressure. Unlike the US, Russia had a Civil Defense program with sheltering in the Moscow subway system. The Americans knew about their program, but not the full extent of it.

Russia moved their Borei-class submarines into position and activated their Perimetr system. All the while, moving citizens into the shelter system based on carefully defined parameters that insured those people needed to help rebuild the country after the American attack would be on hand to do so.

The purpose of the *Dead Hand* system (Perimeter), as described in a book of the same name, was to maintain a second strike capability, by ensuring that the destruction of the

Soviet leadership would not have prevented the Soviet military from releasing its weapons.

Soviet concern about the issue grew with the US development of highly accurate submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) systems in the 1980s. Until then, the United States would have delivered most nuclear weapons by long-range bomber or ICBM. Earlier US sub-launched missiles, such as the 1960s-vintage UGM-27 Polaris and 1970s-vintage UGM-73 Poseidon, were considered too inaccurate for a counterforce or first strike attack, an attack against an opponent's weapons. SLBMs were reserved for attacking cities, where accuracy was of less importance. In the first case, an opponent with effective radar and satellite surveillance could expect a 30-minute warning of an attack before the first detonation. This made an effective first strike difficult, because the opponent would have time to launch on warning to reduce the risk of their forces being destroyed on the ground. The development of highly accurate SLBMs, such as the Trident C4 and later the D5 upset this balance. The Trident D5 is considered to be as accurate as any land based ICBM. Therefore, US or UK Trident submarine systems could stealthily approach an enemy's coast and launch highly accurate warheads at close range, reducing the available warning to less than 3 minutes, making a counterforce first strike or a decapitation strike viable.

The USSR took steps to ensure that nuclear retaliation, and hence deterrence, remained possible even if its leadership were destroyed in a surprise attack. In contrast, Thompson argues that Perimetr's function was to limit acts of misjudgment by political or military leaderships in the tight decision making window between SLBM or cruise missile launches, and impact. He quotes Zheleznyakov on the purpose of Perimeter being "to cool down all these hotheads and extremists. No matter what was going to happen, there still would be revenge." By most accounts, it is normally switched off and is supposed to be activated during dangerous crises only; however, it is said to remain fully functional and able to serve its purpose whenever needed. It was discussed in a news article on 7Sep14. <http://www.businessinsider.com/russias-dead-hand-system-may-still-be-active-2014-9> [The name of the system was spelled wrong in the article... the Soviets created a system called Perimeter, also known as Dead Hand. The correct name is Perimetr.]

Russia didn't have to worry about China either because they had been eliminated from the equation with World War Three. While Russia assumed that the US had implemented a 'launch on warning' posture, the US still had the previous policy of notifying the National Command Authority to decide upon the appropriate response to a perceived attack. Once NCA transmitted to codes to the NMCC at Raven Rock, the military took it from there. In this case, the responsible military officers were safely locked away in the Mountain.

Nuclear Forces-ICBMs

▲ Test Center
● ICBM Base



World War Four – Chapter 2

“LOCK IT DOWN!”

“Two more minutes, Smoke, two more minutes.”

“Hurry Spence.”

“That’s it, I got my baby. Radiation shouldn’t hurt the ammo.”

“How much is left?”

“Ten cases.”

“We’ll risk it. Everyone grab as much as they can carry and pile it inside the shelter. We’ll sort it out later.”

“I never asked, but you do have an emergency exit, right?”

“It’s in the master bedroom; I’ll show you later.”

Finally, everyone was in the shelter, the AV-300 activated, the power cut off from the grid and stores were being moved to where they belonged. Every building on the acreage was locked down. TOM was sitting at the table sorting the pinto beans and Sharon was giving him a dirty look.

When he finished sorting 2 pounds of pinto beans, he started in on the 2 pounds of great northern beans followed by the 2 pounds of navy beans. Finally, he put off ground beef in the refrigerator to slowly thaw and set out 2 pounds of elbow macaroni and 2 cans of Italian flavored diced tomatoes. That ought to cover the first 2 weeks or up to the point where someone said *no mas*.

I went ahead and hooked up the AMP 200, 100 and 50 and got out the radiation log. We wouldn’t be hooking up any radios to the outside antenna other than a WR602. We had enough of those to be able to lose a few. They were actually cheaper if you bought a case.

Each person’s radios were labeled with masking tape and stored in separate boxes. World War Four wouldn’t be fought with sticks and stones either, until we ran out of ammo for the black powder firearms. And, if you could recover the bullet, it could be re-cast. We had an ample stock of nitrate from the bat caves, willow charcoal, sulfur and large pistol and large rifle primers with the manual Lee loaders.

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In the film *The Carpetbaggers*, Nevada Smith, Alan Ladd, and Jonas Cord, George Peppard, Jonas Cord becomes one of America's richest men, inheriting an explosives company from his late father. Cord resents his father bitterly and is psychologically scarred by the death of a twin brother. Believing his family has insanity in its blood, he does not want children of his own.

Cord buys up the company stock held by Nevada Smith, a former gunslinger. He had practically raised Cord in the absence of his father. Cord pays off his father's widow Rina Marlowe, who he believes had married his father strictly for money. She is portrayed as a gold-digger and sexually assertive.

Cord becomes an aviation pioneer and his wealth grows. He ruins a business rival named Winthrop, then seduces and marries the man's daughter Monica. He quickly abandons her and demands a divorce.

Nevada Smith finds work in western films. Rina resurfaces to become a movie star for a studio owned by Bernard Norman. Cord seeks to buy that studio, but Norman refuses until after learning that Rina, by then alcoholic, has died in a car crash. A public relations man, Dan Pierce, betrays his employer Cord, who pays Norman more money than the studio is worth absent its chief box-office draw.

Cord goes on an alcoholic binge and disappears. Upon his return, he decides to run the studio, even directing films. He casts an attractive call girl, Jennie Denton, as the studio's new girl star. Cord cuts his ties with aviation partner Buzz and longtime lawyer Mac. He so badly mistreats Jennie that his old friend Nevada Smith challenges him to a fistfight and badly beats him.

A contrite Cord returns to Monica, with whom he has a child. He has learned from Nevada that there was no insanity in his family after all. His and Monica's daughter grows up as a healthy, normal girl (as much as is possible given her parents' pasts).

Due to the success of *The Carpetbaggers* a prequel *Nevada Smith* followed starring Steve McQueen as Max Sand and Brian Keith as Jonas Cord Sr. Max Sand using the alias of Nevada Smith tracks down the 3 men who killed his parents, going so far as to being locked up in prison and joining the gang led by Karl Malden.

The point is that Jonas Cord in the prequel loaded .45 Colt ammunition with what looked remarkably like a Lee Loader. The Jonas Cord character was based on Howard Hughes.

It was a western that has no bearing on the situation we found ourselves in.

◦

World War Five will be the sticks and stones war that Einstein predicted. Einstein was apparently terrified of the Atom Bomb, but he hadn't seen what the weapons system

morphed into. The same could be said for Ronald Reagan. While he began the Strategic Defense Initiative (aka Star Wars), he died before it was fully implemented. After all, all it took was time and money to develop SDI.

While Spence had a large quantity of ammunition in the proper bullet weights, most of it was PPU match. He'd gone through the South African but his 2 for 1 replacement policy left him with much more than TOM had. TOM had some PPU that was relegated to a backup role. He was actually shooting up the 200gr +P Gold Dot and replacing it with 230gr Gold Dot. He was sitting on ~2,000 rounds of the 230gr Gold Dot, the same amount of 12 gauge and the 168gr PPU for the Standard and Loaded models.

Most of the 5.56 was also Serbian except for the M855A1. He told me that he read a review of the M855A1 and it performed better with a 1:9 twist rate.

◦

By John L. Plaster
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The US Army replaced its green-tipped 5.56x45 mm NATO, M855 standard ball cartridge in June 2010 with the lead-free, or “green,” M855A1 cartridge. Like its predecessor, the new bullet weighs 62 grains, but since its copper core is one-third lighter than lead, it is approximately 1/8 inch longer. As such, the bullet is seated deeper (and the propellant compressed) to achieve an identical cartridge overall length of 2.248 inches.

The cartridge's tip is bronze-colored, which is actually an anti-corrosive coating on its hardened steel penetrator. Unlike that of the M855, the M855A1's arrowhead-shaped penetrator extends 0.275 inches beyond the front of the gilding metal jacket and, being longer, protrudes deeper inside, where a mechanical lock (i.e. cannelure) secures it. The latter is commonplace on many new non-bonded personal-protection handgun bullets.

The propellant is temperature-stabilized St. Mark's SMP842, with additives to reduce muzzle flash and copper fouling in the bore. Its No. 41 primer is identical to the M855's, but uses a stab crimp rather than the common circumferential crimp, apparently to better withstand the new load's higher chamber pressure.

This cartridge has generated considerable interest because of its non-lead, “green” bullet. Sufficient M855A1 cartridges were obtained to compare performance to the previous M855 variant, and to measure any improvements, differences or deviations. The tests employed Colt, Remington and Smith & Wesson flattop ARs, having 1:7- and 1:9-inch twist rates, with both 16-inch standard and 24-inch match-grade barrels. Each rifle was topped by a high-magnification scope to allow precise aiming and target definition.

One initial US Army claim, that when switching to the new round shooters were, “Not required to re-zero,” was immediately disproven. At 100 yards, there was a 3-inch zero shift with M855A1; a shooter must re-zero his rifle or carbine when transitioning from M855 to the new cartridge. The Army’s Armament Research Development and Engineering Center (ARDEC) recently modified that guidance, asserting that it “lessens the need to re-zero the weapon.”

Accuracy cannot be assessed without addressing the rifle barrels’ twist-rates. In the early 1980s the M855’s 62-grain bullet was developed for the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (SAW). For purposes of interoperability, the same load was adopted as the M16A2 rifle’s standard ball as well. A February 1986 US Army study noted that the M855’s bullet required a “1:9 twist [which] would be more appropriate for the M16A2 rifle, improving accuracy and reliability.” Multiple studies confirmed the 1:9-inch twist requirement.

But then a problem arose. The US military’s standard M856 5.56 mm tracer round was longer, heavier (63.7 grains) and slower than the M855 ball, and simply would not stabilize with a 1:9-inch twist barrel. Thus, despite it doubling M855 group sizes, the M16A2 (and later, the M4) specified a 1:7-inch rate-of-twist barrel to stabilize the tracer round. It remains so to this day. Therefore, M855A1 was test-fired with both 1:7- and 1:9-inch twist barrels, and it was verified that this new cartridge is consistently more accurate in the latter barrels – as was its predecessor.

The M855A1’s developers have described it as yielding “match-like” accuracy, which most rifle shooters would define as one minute-of-angle (moa), or groups measuring no more than 1 inch at 100 yards. While the new ammunition has proved more accurate than the green-tipped load it replaced, testing did not yield match-like accuracy, especially in the standard 1:7-inch twist-rate found in today’s M4s and M16s. At 100 yards, the best group with a 1:7-inch barrel was 1.62 inches (1.6 moa). At 300 yards, it similarly fired 1.6 moa (4.9 inches) and widened to 1.8 moa (7.5 inches) at 400 yards. At these same distances, firing the M855A1 through a 1:9-inch twist barrel reduced group sizes by approximately half.

On average, the new ammunition produced one flyer in roughly each five rounds, which, it can be argued, exaggerated the group sizes. Since the Army announced that, “On average, 95 percent of the [M855A1] rounds will hit an 8x8-inch target at 600 meters,” each group’s most errant bullet impact was discarded and group sizes recalculated. Statistically they improved, but not enough to place 95 percent of rounds so close at 600 meters, at least when using the standard 1:7-inch barrel – which may explain why accuracy was less than expected.

When US Army shooters twice fired public demonstrations of the new round, they did not employ standard 1:7-inch twist M16A2s or M4s, but accurized, match-grade, stain-less-barreled rifles from the Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU). I contacted the AMU and learned that these rifles did not have standard-issue 1:7-inch barrels, but most likely 1:8-inch twist, which probably accounts for their “match-like” accuracy.

Further analyzing the new cartridge, 10 bullets were pulled to measure their weight. Seeing as it lacks lead, the new M855A1 “green” bullet is considerably longer than its M855 counterpart. Bullets weighed within 0.2 grain of 62 grains – a tolerance worthy of match-grade projectiles – while the average for all 10 was an impressive 61.99 grains. However, while using an impact puller there was a great variation in the number of blows required to release a bullet; some popped out with only four strikes while others required more than 40. This was most likely attributed to an inconsistent application of the bullet’s waterproof seal, inducing unbalanced separation of the bullet from the cartridge mouth. This could well account for the flyers experienced.

Interestingly, while inspecting the M855A1 cartridges, it was noted that 18 percent of the exposed penetrators rotated with finger-pressure. However, testing those cartridges separately, they proved to be no less accurate than the others.

Overall, it was found that M855A1 is more accurate than the old green-tip, but capable of even better accuracy when fired from a 1:9-inch twist barrel

Recent combat experiences identified the green-tipped M855’s tendency to occasionally “ice-pick” – that is, poke completely through enemy personnel without neutralizing them – even with multiple hits, especially during close-range gunfights. Sometimes it performed well; sometimes it did not.

Army researchers found that lethality was dictated by the 5.56 mm bullet’s yaw; that is, after impact a hardened ball projectile must wobble or turn against its axis – yaw – or fragment, to inflict significant tissue damage. “At a low angle of yaw,” an Army study determined, “the bullet reacts more slowly, causing the inconsistent effects observed in the field [T]he location and amount of yaw depend upon the speed of the bullet at impact, angle of impact, and density of tissue.”

A related factor was the physiology of Afghan Taliban and Iraqi insurgents. Usually malnourished, their torsos are only about 7.5-inches thick, while the older M855 projectile often penetrated, “up to 7 inches before beginning to yaw, and will already have exited the body before yaw or fragmentation occur.” According to published standards, the new cartridge is designed to yaw no more than 3 inches beyond the impact point, producing a temporary cavity diameter of 4 to 6 inches and minimum penetration depth of 12 inches, and to do that consistently.

To test those standards, the Black Hills Ammunition ballistics lab assisted me by test-firing the M855A1 into ballistic gelatin. In particular, I was interested in the bullet’s performance at close-quarters so it was fired at 12 feet, a distance at which the old round sometimes failed. The results were impressive. In less than 1 inch the lead-free bullet yawed, immediately opening a 4.5-inch wide temporary cavity, which extended for 14.5 inches – exactly as claimed. That would certainly be effective against the thin-torsoed insurgents operating in the Mideast and Southwest Asia.

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Surprisingly, he suggested making the first menu goulash with homemade French bread. We all visited over supper and decided to try the navy beans next for bean soup. Most agreed that bean soup sounded good and asked if we had beans.

“We have plenty of beans and can probably get more. TOM said that if you eat enough beans, the enzyme needed to break them down adapts quickly eliminating flatulence. Judy and I save the ham scraps from the cure 81 hams to flavor the beans and like I said we do have beans. We can put together sausage and biscuits, bacon and eggs, oatmeal, cream of wheat or granola for breakfast. The frozen orange juice is somewhat limited so we’ll limit that to once a week.

“While we’re inactive here in the shelter, we’ll go with a lite lunch and make supper the main meal of the day. We have a large supply of cocoa from Rainy Day Foods for the kids and anyone who wants a cup to relax them before bed. We also have Folgers and a large assortment of tea.

“All of the freezers are full of Black Angus beef, Hormel thick sliced bacon, Cure 81 hams, ground sirloin and roasts. One of the freezers is packed with bread flour and yeast. We froze a portion of the garden produce and canned the rest. We have home canned garlic dills, regular dills, bread and butter and sweet pickles.

“We also have acorn and butternut squash. The onions and potatoes are bagged and line the various tunnels. Spence is a great cook and between him and TOM, food shouldn’t be a problem.

“On to other things. Keep your firearms clean and in Condition one. You can either rotate the magazines or download them 10% to 27 rounds in the 30 round magazines, 22 rounds in the 25 round magazines and 18 rounds in the 20 round magazines. I also suggest that you keep your primary loadout to full magazines and switch them weekly. Questions?”

“What about the handguns?”

“Wear what you have fulltime with enough spare magazines to get to your rifle.”

“Ok, why?”

“A handgun has a very limited range and if you’re using it, you’re already in trouble. Call for help on Guard, channel 1 on the CP-200A (lower bands – the upper bands were on the CP-200B) and remain behind cover. If possible, call in a SALUTE Report. So we’ll have an idea what we’re up against. We’ll be covering a SALUTE report tomorrow.”

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SALUTE Report

Size: how many men in the unit?

Activity: what are they doing?

Location: where are they? Give map coordinates if available, otherwise the best description available.

Unit: who are they? Uniforms? Descriptions?

Time: when did you see them?

Equipment: what weapons do they have? Vehicles? Radios? Anything else distinctive?

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After breakfast the next morning, Derek and I drummed the concept of a SALUTE Report into everyone's thick skulls. We hadn't received any radiation initially and the first indication of radiation came after the training session. Over the course of the day, the floor of the shelter vibrated more than once, suggesting multiple waves of attacks.

Derek was showing his dad, one more time, the art of sharpening a knife with the DMT stones. TOM just didn't have the ability to hold the knife at the proper angle to the stone to get a uniform edge and gave up in frustration. Derek laughed and said it wasn't like we were going anywhere soon and started working on his dad's knives before moving onto someone else's set. The easiest to sharpen were the shovels and machetes using the belt sander and the oval steel.

San Mai III steel is a laminated stainless steel which consists of three layers of steel. The outer two layers are made of a softer tough steel, sandwiching a harder, high carbon core that forms the actual cutting edge of the knife.

Earlier variants of San Mai III steel had an AUS-8 steel core, sandwiched by softer, tougher stainless sides possibly made from 420J2. Current San Mai III steel, sometimes called VG-1 San Mai III, uses a VG-1 stainless core which is a slight upgrade from AUS-8. San Mai looks very nice, but given the actual application of the knives in using this steel, the necessity of the San Mai construction is questionable. Cold Steel has a reputation for being all hype and gimmicks, and San Mai III steel is considered by many to be just another gimmick.

San Mai III is used exclusively by Cold Steel, and is manufactured exclusively for them in Japan. Since VG-1 is a proprietary product of Takefu Special Steel, it is possible that they manufacture the steel for Cold Steel.

That said, the Cold Steel San Mai III knives would take and hold a remarkable edge. The DMT sharpening stones ranged from coarse to extra-extra-fine and when the knife was finished off with either the 4000 grit or 8000 grit, it would cut most anything. While not a true Damascus steel they were close.

Now, more than ever, I wished we'd installed a CCTV system and was relieved that we hadn't. TOM had his full blown Global Thermonuclear War. The results of WWII and Yellowstone probably paled in comparison to what was happening above ground. We could feel the occasional weapon strike and presumed those were the larger warheads. We actually began to wonder how many weapons were used in the attack against the US. Both Russia and the US had enduring stockpiles of bombs and warheads giving rise to the question of whether or not we'd both use up everything we had.

The AMP 50 jumped off the peg and seemed to reach its maximum limit in only moments so we shut it down and began following the AMP 100. It took longer before the AMP 100 reached 1,000R/hr whereupon we shut it off and began following the AMP 200. It wasn't likely that the AMP 200 would reach its maximum of 10,000R/hr. It reached 8,000R/hr, finally stopped at ~3,000R/hr an hour later.

"TOM, it's your spreadsheet what does this reading mean?"

"It means that we're close to a target. The short-lived isotopes die out within an hour leaving the longer lived radioactivity. In general terms, the radiation level at ground zero falls to about 3,000R/hr one hour after the detonation. Do you have a weather station? If you do, what are the readings?"

"It's nothing fancy, just something we picked up from Oregon Scientific. The wind is out of the west at 12mph gusting to 18mph."

"Let's average that to 15mph and use the spreadsheet to determine where the weapon went off. Wow, that was close, about 20 miles to the west. That would probably be Yellville. There's no significant target 20 miles west of Mountain Home so I'd have to speculate the weapon was off course. We can check outside in about 68 days. We can't stay out until about 265 days and the younger people can't stay out before 1 year without risking serious side effects."

"What levels do those day figures represent?"

"Well, 68 days for 0.5R/hr and 265 days for 95mR/hr with the radiation falling to 60mR/hr right around 1 year. Males are at greater risk than females for genetic damage for any given level. That means that Judy and you plus Sharon and I will be the first to leave to check out things. Maximum daily dose doesn't change from the maximum of 2.5R/day but given our ages we probably won't live long enough for the cancer to show up."

"What does maximum daily dose have to do with anything?"

"The guideline is you won't experience significant symptoms if you're not exposed to more than 300 Rads in 120 days, thus the daily limit of 2.5 Rads. It's just an average so don't count on it."

“What can we count on?”

“Everybody dies some time. You’re born... you live... and when your time comes, you die. That one is up to God according to Jesus. My father and I didn’t get along and in my later years and my goal was to outlive him at least one day. Every additional day I get now is a bonus, even if I’m miserable.

“I can’t hear from my right ear because of not using hearing protection when shooting; diabetes gave me cataracts and I got new lenses but since then, the covering over the lenses has thickened and my vision isn’t the best. Then I developed osteoporosis with my bones thinning and my teeth breaking. I don’t eat a soft diet by choice. The only thing I have that works well is my heart... at the moment with only a minor amount of regurgitation. My COPD frequently leaves me breathless and it’s treated with Albuterol and Atrovent or resting for half an hour to get my breath back. I have a generous supply of both and a nebulizer so I get by.

“I had carpal tunnel syndrome but by the time it was diagnosed the muscles were fully atrophied. That was followed by diabetic neuropathy with my left hand and right foot being in worse shape than my right hand and left foot. That doesn’t include my bleeding ulcers but I have Prilosec to help with those.”

“So you have one foot in the grave and the other on a banana peel?”

“I didn’t mention the dysthymic disorder or seasonal Major Depression Disorder which comes on during the late fall and lasts through the New Year.”

“What would be your best contribution in this situation?”

“Probably holding down the homestead and coordinating the away teams.”

“That’s not going to happen before 265 days have elapsed.”

“It will be risky at 265 days and those extra 100 plus days could come in handy. I’m curious about something... how did you happen to get interested in the 7.62x51mm cartridge as opposed to the 5.56x45mm cartridge?”

“We have both cartridges in our armory. My objection was the action of the M-16, the direct gas impingement system. After Stoner left ArmaLite, they came out with the AR-18, a gas piston system that overcame everything wrong with the AR-15. By then the government had adopted the AR-15, designating it as the M-16. We all know the government is never wrong, even when they are. Curtis LeMay was a 4 star after all.

“I suppose the lightweight M-16 made sense in Vietnam even if it wasn’t the ideal fire-arm. The ammo was light and a soldier or Marine could carry 300 rounds without difficulty. Plus the 20” barrel gave the M193 cartridge some real velocity and it tended to yaw making it deadly as configured.

“As you know, they had to adopt the SS109 cartridge, our M855, and it was poorly designed. Next, they shortened the barrel giving up velocity for CQC. Plus they hadn’t fixed the real problem, the direct gas impingement system. Plus the only people using the AR-18 were the Irish Republican Army who called the rifle ‘the widow maker’.”

“We didn’t have any major wars until after 9/11/01. Desert Storm was months of getting ready and then Stormin’ Norman’s Hail Mary. Seeing the open spaces over there, I had a feeling that the M-16 was the wrong arm at the wrong time and place. But, we never got to test it to any real degree.

“I ended up in Iraq for 2 tours before going to Afghanistan and the Designated Marksmen and the Snipers weren’t using 5.56x45mm rifles. They were using the M-21s and the M107s. I was still single and got the Springfield parkerized Super Match action installed in a McMillan adjustable synthetic stock. Over a period of time, I just kept adding the M1As and replaced the M9 with a real handgun in .45ACP. How about you?”

“Read an article in a magazine about the M14 before they were done developing it. Wanted one from that day forward and finally got it in 2006. I selected the M1A Loaded model because it was the least expensive rifle with an air gaged match barrel. I went with a Mossberg shotgun on the recommendation of Fleataxi because they had the beefed up 590A1. I asked around on the .45 and my buddy Russ suggested the PT1911.”

“The Canadians were using the Tac-50. I noticed you were recommending the Barrett and only later switched to the Tac-50.”

“Switched when I learned of them and how accurate the rifle was. Even if you have the most accurate rifle made, it’s still on the shooter to make the hit. I think Derek is slightly farsighted based on that 4” group at 500 yards with iron sights shooting South African surplus.”

“You’re proud of him.”

“I’m proud of both of my boys. My oldest son is too much like me and I’m closer to Derek. Derek made a career of the military and I’m very proud of his service although I liked to crap my pants when he went to Kosovo and volunteered for Iraq.”

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If I learned anything about TOM during the next 70 days while the radiation level fell below 500mR/hr, it was his total fascination with the M14 rifle. He had a document on his computer that covered the history of the rifle from development stages to the Springfield Armory days by Lee Emerson. Funny thing was that when we went topside to check things out, he took an HK417 with 6 M433s and 6 assorted hand grenades; 2 fragmen-

tation, 2 white smoke, one concussion and one thermate. He had his .45 and 590A1 for backup.

I took my HK417, 12 M433s, 21 loaded magazines and my PT1911. The ladies were outfitted with HK416s and Browning Hi-Powers.

First things first, the cabin was still standing and the doors opened and closed so the cabin wasn't out of plumb. It was cold though, see your breath cold. We checked the vehicles and they eventually started and we called it good for our first trip. Back inside, we hooked up the various radios and set a listening watch.

It was weeks before we ran across an amateur transmitting on 80 meters. We learned from him that much of the traffic in their area of Iowa used 75 meters so we transitioned and listened. It was a talkfest because Iowa hadn't been hit with any weapons during WWIII and few during WWIV. They had lost power in the first wave of warheads but locally generated power was available if they had natural gas or coal.

They described conditions that sounded more like they were in Canada than in the second tier of states from the north. Many of the people were relying on fireplaces to heat their homes and the occasional kerosene heater. Fuel was available in the Capital, Des Moines, and was away from the strike area of West Des Moines. Derek was the last among the group to live in Iowa and he translated what we heard into meaningful terms.

His favorite expression became 'this is not good' and I asked him if he'd read any of Jerry's fiction. He hadn't had time to read his dad's and wanted to know why I asked. I told him that Jerry used the expression often in his works. He replied that Jerry must have had a premonition because things really weren't good.

World War Four – Chapter 3

We concluded that Russia had to realize that the US would never sit still for Russia's attack on Israel and it followed that they felt obligated to launch an attack on the US at the same time. We also concluded, rightly or wrongly, that both sides had dug into their enduring stockpiles and used every weapon they could. This was evidenced by the attacks occurring in waves. The detonation to our west wasn't at any known target unless Russia didn't like Ranger boats.

We limited our outside intervals to when the radiation level fell another 100mR/hr, ergo, 400mR/hr, 300mR/hr, etc. Right around 260 days, the radiation fell to 100mR/hr and everyone was allowed out for a few minutes, especially the children. Most of them had celebrated a birthday in 'the hole in the ground'. It was a toss-up who appreciated the outside time the most, the children or the adults.

All of the vehicles still started after a time and no computers had been fried. A decision was quickly reached to allow the children 4 hours above ground, either outside or in the cabin. Derek, TOM and I would arm up and drive up to Mountain Home and see what the prospects were.

Mountain Home looked like it had been hit with some of the blast wave from the detonation to the west. We didn't see a single person and some of the homes were leaning. TOM said it didn't seem right and something about the inverse squares law. He went on to say he'd included the effects of a 1mT blast in some of his stories, but he'd have to look it up because he simply couldn't remember.

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The effects of a 1mT surface burst, assuming a wind speed of 15mph, a wind direction of due east and a time frame of 7 days are:

3,000 Rem

Distance: 30 miles

Much more than a lethal dose of radiation. Death can occur within hours of exposure. About 10 years will need to pass before levels of radioactivity in this area drop low enough to be considered safe, by US peacetime standards.

900 Rem

Distance: 90 miles

A lethal dose of radiation. Death occurs from two to fourteen days.

300 Rem

Distance: 160 miles

Causes extensive internal damage, including harm to nerve cells and the cells that line the digestive tract, and results in a loss of white blood cells. Temporary hair loss is another result.

90 Rem

Distance: 250 miles

Causes a temporary decrease in white blood cells, although there are no immediate harmful effects. Two to three years will need to pass before radioactivity levels in this area drop low enough to be considered safe, by US peacetime standards.

Radius of destructive circle: 1.7 miles

12 pounds per square inch

At the center lies a crater 200 feet deep and 1000 feet in diameter. The rim of this crater is 1,000 feet wide and is composed of highly radioactive soil and debris. Nothing recognizable remains within about 3,200 feet (0.6 miles) from the center, except, perhaps, the remains of some buildings' foundations. At 1.7 miles, only some of the strongest buildings – those made of reinforced, poured concrete – are still standing. Ninety-eight percent of the population in this area is dead.

Radius: 2.7 miles

5 psi

Virtually everything is destroyed between the 12 and 5-psi rings. The walls of typical multi-story buildings, including apartment buildings, have been completely blown out. The bare, structural skeletons of more and more buildings rise above the debris as you approach the 5-psi ring. Single-family residences within this area have been completely blown away – only their foundations remain. Fifty percent of the population between the 12 and 5-psi rings are dead. Forty percent are injured.

Radius: 4.7 miles

2 psi

Any single-family residences that have not been completely destroyed are heavily damaged. The windows of office buildings have been blown away, as have some of their walls. The contents of these buildings' upper floors, including the people who were working there, are scattered on the street. A substantial amount of debris clutters the entire area. Five percent of the population between the 5 and 2-psi rings are dead. Forty-five percent are injured.

Radius: 7.4 miles

1 psi

Residences are moderately damaged. Commercial buildings have sustained minimal damage. Twenty-five percent of the population between the 2 and 1-psi rings are injured, mainly by flying glass and debris. Many others have been injured from thermal radiation – the heat generated by the blast. The remaining seventy-five percent are unharmed.

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If I understand what he saying about the inverse square rule, the warhead must have been close to 5mT. That came from comparing damage in Mountain Home with the estimated distance to the strike. Apparently the degree of damage fell the greater distance from ground zero and double the distance it was $\frac{1}{4}$ the level of the 1mT explained on the chart on his computer. He didn't explain it and in all truth, I was guessing.

On the other hand, the radiation level this close could be determined by the 7/10 rule because the level was 3,000R/hr one hour after the detonation. We could stop relying on the spreadsheet and use the reading from the AMP 200, 100 and eventually the 50.

With the radiation below 100mR/hr he suggested we could spend a maximum of 8 hours on the surface unless we found a hot spot. We were wearing the dosimeters, 0-500mR, 0-100R and 0-200R dosimeters along with carrying a portable 500R/hr survey meter.

With that in mind, we located any empty reefer trailers and a Kenworth to pull them. We were hitting, on average one store per day.

Given the very cold weather, most of the canned goods had burst except for canned meats. The staples were pretty much intact. The situation required 2 box trailers, a refrigerated trailer and a flatbed trailer. The trailers weren't a problem but running semis were few and far between. But we still had the one from WWIII and Yellowstone so we could get by.

We started with any usable canned goods before moving to the dry goods. Wal-Mart carried bread flour in 25 pound bags and dry yeast, neither of which the cold weather hurt. In fact it probably added to the shelf life. After a week or so mining the Mountain Home Wal-Mart we switched our focus to other stores adding clothing, footwear including boots and athletic shoes. We also tried to corner the market on tools, spare parts for those Stihl chain saws and checked out the firewood dealer, coal dealer and fuel dealers.

Judy and Sharon were recording what we found in an Excel spreadsheet which would be combined with our previous inventory spreadsheet. I had serious doubts about locating firearms and ammunition... but we came up with a reasonable amount, mostly hunting rifles and shotguns with the appropriate ammo for each. During this phase of our activities, TOM started to chuckle.

"What's so funny?"

"I was remembering the last time I went hunting. I was using a Marlin Glenfield .22 and managed to hit a squirrel. It must have been a glancing blow because the squirrel was only stunned. In order to make sure it was dead, I blew its head off with my surplus M1911 and we didn't see another squirrel the rest of the afternoon. The guy I was with

was royally po'd and that was the one and only time we went hunting together. He ended up buying the .45 from me, probably so I didn't spoil any more hunting trips. It was a fairly good pistol but needed the barrel replaced because it looked like 10 miles of unmaintained county road."

"Unless someone objects, I wouldn't mind having that Winchester model 70 in .30-06 and an assortment of .30-06 ammo in every bullet weight we can find. That Silver Tip will be plenty good for the intended use."

"Help yourself. I think we should consider moving the propane, coal and firewood since each of my suppliers has a fair amount on hand. We have some empty tankers from the last time that we can use. Has anyone tried any frequencies beyond 75 and 80 meters?"

"Not that I know of. Do you want to try 40 meters or 20 meters?"

"Probably both. We haven't heard anything on 11 meters but given the range and the power limit that's not surprising."

"Do you have a linear?"

"Sure; unless the other party has one, they aren't much use."

"What size?"

"The main one is a 100 watts and the one I seldom use is 1,000 watts."

"Might as well use them since I doubt the FCC is focusing on people using linear amplifiers."

"Assuming the FCC is still in business, I have to agree. Remind me to add the 100 watt. I have enough of those to equip every vehicle and the base station. The antenna is rated at 1,500 watts so it won't be a problem. It also gives us a second radio for distance communications in each vehicle. Once we're finished here I like to see the inventory we've acquired sorted so we know where we stand."

"On another issue, I've heard more bad about the M118LR ammo than good so we should probably take any Black Hills or Federal Match we come across."

"What about the .45 Colt and .45-70?"

"It should be okay if we find some horses although we don't have scabbards for the rifles and carbines. It would be nice if we could find someone to put together some."

"Judy and I have some from Kirkpatrick Leather Company."

"Enough?"

“Two per horse and since we have a pattern we can probably make some more.”

“Funny you bought from Kirkpatrick.”

“Why’s that?”

“It’s who I always recommend. Of course if you want to play Paladin or Matt Dillon, you should buy from Alphonso’s of Hollywood. That Paladin rig they have is expensive because of the silver Paladin on the holster.”

“You mean that chess piece?”

“Yeah, it’s the knight; and, the best knights in Charlemagne’s service were called Paladins. A knight is essentially a hired gun, which is the role Richard Boone played.”

The only person who knew more trivia than TOM was Derek. That was to be expected because Derek had a PhD in history and history is a collection of mostly useless facts and trivia. I say mostly because I’m excluding military history which brings in the Santayana quote, *those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it*.

The generations of warfare described by these authors are:

1st Generation: tactics of line and column; which developed in the age of the smooth-bore musket. Lind describes First Generation of warfare as beginning after the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 ending the Thirty Years’ War and establishing the state’s need to organize and conduct war. 1GW consisted of tightly ordered soldiers with top-down discipline. These troops would fight in close order and advance slowly. This began to change as the battlefield changed. Old line and column tactics are now considered suicidal as the bow and arrow/sword morphed into the rifle and machine gun.

2nd Generation: tactics of linear fire and movement, with reliance on indirect fire. This type of warfare can be seen in the early stages of WWI where there was still strict adherence to drill and discipline of formation and uniform. However, there remained a dependence on artillery and firepower to break the stalemate and move towards a pitched battle.

3rd Generation: tactics of infiltration to bypass and collapse the enemy’s combat forces rather than seeking to close with and destroy them; and defense in depth. The 3GW military seeks to bypass the enemy, and attack his rear forward, such as the tactics used by German Storm Troopers in WWI against the British and French in order to break the trench warfare stalemate. These aspects of 3GW bleed into 4GW as it is also warfare of speed and initiative. However, it targets both military forces and home populations.

4th Generation: warfare has often involved an insurgent group or other violent non-state actor trying to implement their own government or reestablish an old government over

the current ruling power. However, a non-state entity tends to be more successful when it does not attempt, at least in the short term, to impose its own rule, but tries simply to disorganize and delegitimize the state in which the warfare takes place. The aim is to force the state adversary to expend manpower and money in an attempt to establish order, ideally in such a highhanded way that it merely increases disorder, until the state surrenders or withdraws.

It is often seen in conflicts involving failed states and civil wars, particularly in conflicts involving non-state actors, intractable ethnic or religious issues, or gross conventional military disparities. Many of these conflicts occur in the geographic area described by author Thomas P.M. Barnett as the Non-Integrating Gap, fought by countries from the globalized Functioning Core.

It has much in common with traditional low-intensity conflict in its classical forms of insurgency and guerrilla war. As in those small wars, the conflict is initiated by the 'weaker' party through actions which can be termed 'offensive'. The difference lies in the manner in which 4GW opponents adapt those traditional concepts to present day conditions. These conditions are shaped by technology, globalization, religious fundamentalism, and a shift in moral and ethical norms which brings legitimacy to certain issues previously considered restrictions on the conduct of war. This amalgamation and metamorphosis produces novel ways of war for both the entity on the offensive and that on the defensive.

Examples of 4GW: Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and IS.

How did we get from a 4GW back to a 3GW? It was the treaties that Russia had to support the Middle Eastern countries. When Israel used conventional weapons, Russia lacked an excuse but when they decided to turn the Middle East into a glass parking lot, Russia had the excuse. The US was involved only because of our nearly 70 year history of supporting Israel and the assumptions that Russia made about our response to them attacking Israel.

So now not only is the Middle East, and portions China earlier, glass parking lots, significant portions of the US and Russia have joined the club. But there are people out there on the 75 & 80 meter bands. It's too cold to go where they are because the snowplows aren't running.

Did you assume that Russia would attack counter-force targets? Which ones? The US has more silos than missiles these days and we still have a nuclear triad, the land, the air and the sea. We couldn't get the B-2s loaded, but we could get them airborne. We couldn't move the silos so they were probably fired first. Remember, we took out China with those TLAM-Ns that Bush Sr. retired. And China only hit a few Japanese targets.

But the Japanese must have an ICBM because their second test was in the southern Indian Ocean. If the US could track it, so could Russia. I think it's similar to a Minuteman III missile with a range of >8,100 miles (13,000km). There was no reason for Japan to

test the full range of their missile and they could have terminated the 3rd stage motor at any point after it ignited.

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Despite the weather, we hauled propane, diesel, gasoline, coal and firewood until we had all there was (coal and firewood) or ran out of room. The construction of the cabin allowed it to be kept warm with only the 'Franklin Stove'. The kitchen stove added the extra heat need during the day. We were short on accommodations and the ground was frozen solid.

TOM said to keep an eye open for new singlewide mobile homes that we could transport and install when the ground thawed. Even if we only added 3 trailers, we'd be short on electricity so there was more to his suggestion than just getting the homes. We'd need more plumbing... water and sewer, another bigger septic system, PV panels, wind turbines, batteries and charge controller/inverters. The maximum flow rate on the 3 wells was 60gpm and there was the 10,000 gallon cistern.

After we pinned down the singlewides; we found 4... all 3 bedroom models, we added furniture and went for the major items needed to finish up. We got plumbing and electrical components in Mountain Home and headed to Little Rock for the rest. It took more than one brand, but we found 4 30kw, 1800 rpm, propane generators and a lot of consumables like oil filters and rebuild parts.

There was room for 3 more battery banks and 2 spares per bank so they went home on the next trip along with the charge controllers/inverters/relay racks. Finally we located 300 watt PV panels and took 100 per trailer. The underlying reason for 30kw per singlewide was to guarantee 240 volts at 100+ amps. There was no way to mount 100 panels on a trailer so we took mounting stands to set up a PV panel array. We hadn't found wind turbines and kept looking until we came up with 4 30kw units. Last, but definitely not least, we checked out my favorite class 3 dealer.

His vault would put an average bank vault to shame. TOM said to get thermal lances and plenty of oxygen and we'd cut our way in. Must have been something he picked up from Jerry because Jerry was big on using thermal lances to break into vaults. Once we got it figured out and began cutting, it was just a matter of time before we knew if the work would be rewarding.

Offhand, I'd say that the 20 HK416s and 4 HK417s with full sets of barrels, 20 magazines per, German silencers and 12 AG-C/EGLM grenade launchers were worth the effort. But then, so was the Black Hills ammo and the less lethal grenades we found. Checking the rest of the back room, we found an unlocked door to another storeroom that had more ammo and his ordinary inventory of hunting rifles and ammo. TOM had his model 70, in .30-06 with a full assortment of ammunition. He didn't say why he wanted that particular setup; maybe he thought his name was Carlos.

Derek was right when he said, 'this is not good'. Apparently nuclear winter was a fact, not a supposition. We were way south of the dividing line, I-70. Those folks we talked to in Iowa weren't on the ham bands anymore and we wondered if they had moved south. TOM made a comment... it was something I'd heard before but couldn't identify...

These are the times that try men's souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman. Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly: it is dearness only that gives every thing its value. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed if so celestial an article as freedom should not be highly rated.

"I recognize the quote TOM, but who said that?"

"I'll give you some clues: Common Sense, The American Crisis, The Rights of Man and The Age of Reason."

"Thomas Paine?"

"I read that he was so hated for his positions that only 6 people showed up for his funeral. I don't know if many know it, but he was the first influential person who could be considered an Abolitionist. I'd tell you to look it up on Wiki, if we still had Wiki."

"What are we going to do now?"

"Any salvage left to do that we haven't already started?"

"I think we have everything covered. We have your intentional community, enough ammo for 10 world wars, enough shelf stable food to last our lifetimes and more weapons than we can haul at one time, unless I missed something."

"What we're short on is medical care and prescription drugs. Some last forever while some have a very definite shelf life. The cyclines are only good for about 1 year, the same as epinephrine. The things with long shelf lives we already have a large supply of or can find more without difficulty. The drugs we don't normally use, like antibiotics and condition specific drugs, like heart drugs, are a concern.

"Way back when, I was using a bottle of Humulin N and noticed the Rx label indicated it was expired. However, reading the manufacturers label discovered that it was good for 2 more years. Another oddball thing about insulin is that the instructions say to discard any remaining after it's been opened for 28 days. I was on Lantus for a few years and took 28 units per day. Each bottle held 1000 units and would cover 35½ days. On top of it, the stuff ran about \$100 a bottle so they expected me to throw away 6½ days' worth at a cost of ~\$20. I didn't say anything, but I guarantee you I emptied every bottle.

“What concerns me the most is Sharon and her stents. The first one plugged up in less than a year, was replaced and a second added. What do we do now when they both become clogged?”

“Could an MD replace them?”

“An interventional cardiologist or interventional radiologist do things like that and usually charge \$1,000 per minute. We had Kaiser when she had both heart attacks and we got by cheap, a co-pay of less than \$200. Kaiser is strictly west coast if any of the foundation facilities are open. Kaiser, if you don’t know, is a Health Maintenance Organization exempt from Obamacare as they come under *The Health Maintenance Organization Act of 1973*.”

“I understood from your stories that you both had Social Security, pensions and that Trust Fund your father set up for you in his will.”

“That’s true. Sharon’s pension from Disney has been used to pay our taxes. My pension from Iowa was only about \$600 per month and our combined Social Security based on our individual contributions is less than \$2,500 a month. We finally got Iowa to agree on a fixed sum payment of \$2,500 a month less the car loan that they financed. It may sound like a lot, but California was a damned expensive place to live.

“Had we lived in Iowa, my Iowa pension would have been tax exempt which it wasn’t in California. What we should have done is moved back to Iowa in 1992 when I quit my job. She didn’t want to because of Lorrie and Amy and the Iowa weather. In hindsight that was probably a good decision considering how cold it must be where I lived 35 miles south of the Minnesota border. That said she’d have wanted to move to Des Moines where her family lives.”

“I heard mention her Ottumwa and Pella during a conversation,” Judy said.

“Sharon was born in Ottumwa. She was a preemie who was delivered when her mother fell on the ice. Her first Husband, Herb Hangar, was a minor radio personality and he worked for a Pella station for a while. We’ve never discussed it in depth because the SOB wouldn’t pay the child support for their daughter Lorrie.

“I met Sharon when I went to work for the Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance as a corporate income tax auditor. My first wife Joyce and my marriage was already rocky and getting worse by the day. I thought we had a handle on working out our problems when she left the boys at the neighbors and got in a cab to the bus station so she could return home to Ames. In those days I had a tendency to flirt and I suppose that was the straw that broke the camel’s back. I had never cheated on Joyce and probably wouldn’t have. She made it plain in the note she left on the kitchen table that the marriage was over and I accepted that. When her father suggested taking the boys for a couple of weeks to let things cool down, I went along. When I returned to Ames to pick up Damon

and Derek, Herb handed me her engagement ring and wedding ring that she'd thrown in a trash can.

"That was it and I began the process of getting the apartment in order."

World War Four – Chapter 4

“Sharon was a single mother with one child and I was soon to become a single parent with two children. I made arrangements for the boys to be taken care of at an Open Bible Standard Church child care center through family friends and Sharon and I began seeing each other. Once the dissolution was final, I proposed and after getting a court waiver we were married in her Lutheran Church a month later.

“The two of us are living on borrowed time. When the time comes, that’s all well and good; until that time I’ll do everything I’m capable of doing to prevent our untimely ends. I’ve never shot anyone or killed anyone and have no idea how I’ll act if the situation presents itself. I sincerely hope I have it within me to do what is necessary.”

“With that kind of attitude you should be able to do what you need to do, unless you’re ambushed,” Smoke observed.

“That’s sort of why I sometimes choose the HK417, you know. With those X Products 50 round magazines or the HK 50 round drums, at least you have enough ammo to lay down suppressing fire in case of an ambush. Plus the PPU ammo is match grade and a lot less expensive than Black Hills. There’s not much difference in weight between an M1A with a 50 round drum and a HK417 with the same sized drum.

“We’re fortunate that Derek had enough of the 50 round drums for both rifles and that’s probably due to you sharing what you had. I can’t recall if it was Jerry, Aaron Burr or even me who said something to the effect that full auto fire was in its element when an ambush occurs; probably all 3 of us at one time or another. I know that I’ve been pushing select fire, in certain cases since I began writing. It does keep the OpFor heads down. I know for certain that Jerry made a point about it in *Cowboy*.”

“You do realize that using either HK rifle in full auto will heat the barrel if you put enough rounds through it don’t you?”

“About the best I’ve been able to do is 5 or sometimes 4 round bursts. Because they fire from a closed bolt, everything is going to heat up. I’m guessing that spacing the bursts out will help keep the barrel and bolt cooler but that’s just a guess. One thing I can do is have the Super Match/M21 to use in semi auto while the HK cools off. Also, if circumstances permit, I can use the HK416.”

“That’s a lot of weight TOM. Do you actually think you can haul 3 rifles and the magazines you’ll need?”

“That depends Smoke on whether or not I have my wheelchair. Without it, there’s no way. With it, it might be possible depending on the circumstances. If I have to choose, I’ll probably use the Super Match with the Taurus for close in. It may boil down to how well I’m feeling on a particular day. Ideally, I can use the M1A, 590A1, PT1911 and PPK. I’d carry the rifle with a 20 round magazine in it and 2 of those double pouches for

the drum magazines. The shotgun would have the 9 rounds in it along with the 15 in the sling, and 6 in the side saddle and 6 in the butt cuff. I figure to have a total of 7 Taurus magazines and 3 Walther magazines.”

“That’s a lot of ammo and the weight will add up.”

“That’s why I qualified it about how I’m feeling. Push comes to shove and I’ll just use the HK416 and PT1911 with 1 drum in the rifle plus 4 in the pouches and the 7 .45ACP magazines.”

“We don’t know what we’re going to come up against. It will be our luck to run across a bunch that just cleaned out an Armory.”

“If we do, we do... that’s not in our hands. It would be nice to have one of those Dillon Aero 134D Miniguns, but wish in one hand and spit in the other...”

“Does Dillon Aero have any relationship to Dillon Precision?”

“Both are owned by the same guy. Aero is based in Scottsdale, Arizona but I don’t know where Dillon Precision is located; it could be in Scottsdale too.”

They were formerly co-located in Scottsdale. Phoenix was gone, either in WWII or WWIV, not that it makes a difference. Palo Verde wasn’t hit but the operators scrambled the reactors and neither it nor the other power plants in Arizona were producing electricity. It was like that around most of the country and only where people hadn’t been affected by the WWIV attacks and had local resources to produce power was electricity available.

In that regard, we were sitting pretty with PV panels, wind turbines, battery banks and propane fueled generators with more propane than we had room to store. We had switched to non-electronic diesel vehicles, either civilian or military. Our salvage efforts had been well rewarded and we had no troubles with others, given the level of security we maintained. Since we originally had 2 battery banks, we ended up with 5, one per residence.

The Dillon Aero 134D wasn’t practical for us to have or use due to the weight of the ammo containers. The larger ammo box held 4,400 rounds and the HMMWV box held 3,000 rounds. Figure the larger, 295 pounds, could only be moved with a forklift and HMMWV magazine wasn’t much better at 204 pounds. Dillon produced mounts for the Huey, Blackhawk, Chinook and a ring mount for the HMMWV. None of us flew helicopters although most could drive a HMMWV.

Moreover we’d have to find up-armored HMMWVs with first or second generation CROWS and add the extra armor Derek’s unit used in Iraq, bulletproof glass in the door wells below the bulletproof glass windows. The Army uses JP-8 in their vehicles, BUT,

the vehicles will run on diesel, gas or kerosene. They also had a large amount of JP-8 at Fort Chaffee.

This wouldn't be a minor effort either, we had to convert the doors of the up-armored HMMWVs with CROWS', stabilize the JP-8 with PRI-D, transfer JP-8 to tankers, locate the stores (munitions, POL and spare parts) and get everything back to Mountain Home. Derek had leaned the CROWS on the fly in Iraq in early 2006 and they had 3 second generation systems at Fort Chaffee. The systems could use the Mk19, M2A1, M240B or the M249. Their 3 had one or the other of the first 3 installed, ergo 1 Mk19, 1 M2A1 and 1 M240B.

It takes a while for new devices to reach the National Guard units, ergo the M2A1, but it eventually happens. We planned to take a 40' tractor-trailer rig to haul back the stores and a tanker to haul back the JP-8. Extras, like body armor would be brought back for those who needed it. Some would go without, they didn't make body armor in that large of sizes.

Derek and I would drive the semis over and TOM, DJ, and Judy would drive the HMMWVs back. They would be our security initially and everyone except TOM would help load. The CROWS wouldn't have a gunner on the way back because we didn't have the people. TOM, in addition to providing security while we loaded would look through Logistics for anything he thought we might be able to use. He said he'd check all the dusty corners for any obsolete items they may have overlooked.

TOM found M136 AT-4 rockets, M61 grenades, and a M107 along with Mk211MP ammo, none of which were on the unit's TOE. He suggested we 'help them out' and get rid of the inappropriate items. Well, why the hell not, if they're not on the TOE according to Derek. Just more things we probably wouldn't use. We had the HMMWVs upgraded, the supplies loaded, the fuel transferred and everyone given fundamental instructions on driving the HMMWVs and we were just minutes from departure when up popped trouble.

"What's going on here?"

"Who the hell are you and why do you want to know?" I asked.

"I could ask you the same."

"My name is Rollin James Reynolds, US Army Command Sergeant Major, Retired. We're redistributing equipment and supplies to where they're needed. What about you?"

"My name is Paul R. Haskins, US Army Command Sergeant Major, Active duty. I'm here with some members of the unit to do what you're attempting to do."

"Attempting?"

“You haven’t cleared the gate yet.”

“We will.”

“How can you be sure?”

“We retrofitted 3 of the up-armored CROWS equipped HMMWVs with extra armor. Plus we brought many of our personal weapons, HK416s, HK417s, M1As, military style shotguns and .45ACP handguns. First Sergeant Ott has trained us on the controls for the CROWS.”

“Derek is here? How come he isn’t in Jonesboro?”

“Well, we had a shelter in Mountain Home and put up his family this last go around. This is our last salvage operation, unless we run out of JP-8.”

“I was Derek’s superior NCO and was due to retire until World War IV. Derek said he told his father about our place with the shelter and stores. But I suppose Palmdale got hit?”

“He never said. It took them almost forever to get to Lake City. Hang on and let me get the others.”

I gathered up Derek, DJ, TOM and Judy and we headed to the gate to chat with CSM Haskins.

“Sergeant Major; figured you made it.”

“First Sergeant; figured you didn’t.”

“May not have if I hadn’t run into Smoke.”

“R. J. Reynolds. Started calling you Smoke during boot camp?”

“And for the 37 years that followed.”

“You have time in grade over me, I only have 35 active.”

“Maybe, but I’m retired. I got out in 2006 so I didn’t have to go to Afghanistan again.”

“How may tours?”

“Two in Iraq and one in Afghanistan.”

“I did two in Iraq and two in Afghanistan.”

“Those people in Iraq were bad news but those in Afghanistan were purely crazy.”

“Same kind of nuts that make up the Islamic State.”

“Present tense?”

“The Israelis only got a few, not that they didn’t try to wipe them out.”

“How do you know?”

“We have some hams in our group along with some linguists. Israel didn’t attack Turkey because Turkey was a member of NATO. The IS did and they’re now in Europe, the Balkans at the moment.”

“Still waging a terrorist campaign?”

“They jacked it up after they went through Iran and are using or have used NBC.”

“Those 25mT bombs?”

“Word is IS found those in Iran and sent 2 to Israel and 10 to the US. When the 2 went off in Israel, Israel nuked the Middle East. Russia retaliated and the battle was joined between the US and Russia. It’s was pure luck that the President was in Murfreesboro. They somehow got him to a bunker somewhere and later transferred him to the Mountain.”

“What about the BC?”

“That’s what they’re using in the Balkans. If they continue to succeed in their endeavor, they start stomping on Russian toes when they move north into the former USSR.”

“You’re assuming there are any Russian toes left to step on, although Russia covers more than one-eighth of the Earth’s inhabited land area.”

“It’s the largest country in the world so we couldn’t have killed all of them.”

“Russia was also the world’s ninth most populous nation with 143 million people as of 2012. Extending across the entirety of northern Asia and much of Eastern Europe, Russia spans nine time zones and incorporates a wide range of environments and landforms. Too true, but how many of them are there left? Enough to invade us?”
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_countries_by_population

“We haven’t heard any talk about something like that and the Russian navy is a joke.”

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The problem wasn't Russia, it was the IS.

In Raqqa, heavily-armed jihadists are seen celebrating on US armored vehicles seized during their advances in Iraq, while Sharia police patrol streets and markets with rifles over their shoulders.

Patrol chief Abu Obida orders traders to remove a poster showing "infidels," then blithely tells a man to change the fabric on his wife's veil.

"Those who don't obey will be forced," Obida explains.

In one gruesome scene, a crucified murder convict is displayed in the public square. In another, the bodies of Syrian 17th Division soldiers, killed by the jihadists during a recent offensive, are dumped on the sidewalk, their severed heads impaled on gate spikes.

"The Islamic caliphate has been established, and we will not stop," said IS press officer Abu Mosa.

A bearded man with a penchant for Ray-Ban sunglasses, Mosa accompanied Dairieh on his reporting and was shown shooting at Syrian soldiers during a skirmish.

He portrayed the group's fight as a battle against infidels like those in the West.

"Don't be cowards and attack us with drones. Instead send your soldiers, the ones we humiliated in Iraq," Mosa said of the Americans.

"We will humiliate them everywhere, God willing, and we will raise the flag of Allah in the White House."

- Child training camps -

Young boys look into the camera and pledge to take up the cause to "kill infidels."

A nine-year-old preparing for Kalashnikov rifle training said he was learning "to fight Russians -- umm, America."

"What do you want to be? A jihadist, or to execute a martyrdom operation?" a man identified as Abdullah the Belgian asked his six-year-old son.

"Jihadist," the boy replies, saying under prompting that infidels "kill Muslims."

Boys under 15 attend Sharia camp, while older ones learn military operations.

"We believe that this generation of children is the generation of the caliphate," said one man while children splashed in the Euphrates River.

“The right doctrine has been implanted in those children,” he added. “All of them love to fight for the sake of building the Islamic State and for the sake of God.”

Few women can be seen in the documentary; those who are shown wear the hijab.

Dairieh leads viewers through a courthouse where residents file complaints or wait on rulings from a Sharia judge on matters related to finance, alcohol use, adultery and other personal matters.

Asked if the process meets international standards, a clerk declares: “We aim to satisfy God, that’s why we don’t care about international standards.”

Following a lightning offensive across Iraq in which IS was accused of numerous atrocities, the group on June 1 declared its caliphate from northern Syria to parts of eastern Iraq. Hundreds of thousands of people have fled.

Within days, jihadists advanced on autonomous Kurdistan, driving tens of thousands of minority Christians and non-Muslim Yazidis from their villages.

IS media coverage has been exceptionally rare due to security reasons. A New York Times report on the group last month did not identify its author or persons interviewed.

The brutal violence – which has reportedly claimed the life of Mosa and another IS official since they were featured in the documentary – makes Dairieh’s time behind the IS veil extraordinary.

Kevin Sutcliffe, Vice News head of news programming for Europe, said Dairieh is likely “the only person they’ve let in for this amount of time.”

The news outlet, part of Vice multimedia group, launched last December. Vice notably claimed a role in the 2013 “basketball diplomacy” which saw ex-NBA star Dennis Rodman travel to North Korea to meet leader Kim Jong-Un.

The Crusades, like the Cold War, never really ended according to TOM. TOM’s quite the character and he said if he knew for certain someone was going to nuke Palmdale he’d go out to the front yard and try to catch it. The whole time we were in the shelter, he refused to eat meat because his ‘gums were worn out’. He liked soft foods like Jell-O, puddings, soups, potato and macaroni salad. If the ladies made ham, chicken or tuna salad he was in the front of the line to make his own sandwiches and it was always 2, not 1.

Most folks put something like celery in ham, chicken or tuna salad. They also use it in potato and macaroni salad. We didn’t have a lot of celery and he told June and Sharon to substitute celery seed, a common spice. It seems like he didn’t know potato salad used celery and he’d never eaten macaroni salad until he was in college.

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Sometimes I get distracted. We're at Fort Chaffee talking with CSM Paul R. Haskins, Derek's boss. The CSM is grilling Derek about the 'military property' we got to before he did. Of course, TOM just loaded up the things he found and 'forgot' to mention them to Derek, DJ, Judy or me. [What they don't know can't hurt you. TOM was a tax auditor, set a thief to catch a thief.]

The Taliban are Pashtun of the Deobandis School and some Deobandis may prefer to use the term Wahhabi to describe themselves or may identify as members of both sects. Wahhabi is the powerful tribe in Saudi Arabia, or they were. If I can get a word in edgewise, I'll ask.

While I'm waiting let me clue you into another tidbit of information. Saudi Arabia was the # 2 oil exporter and Venezuela was # 1. Furthermore, Venezuela's estimated reserves, according to the USGS, exceed the proven reserves of the remainder of the world.

It looks like we can take what we gathered up since we left more HMMWVs than we took. Derek told the CSM he didn't have the key to the trailer and the tankers were filled with stabilized JP-8. They checked; JP-8 has a very strong, persistent odor and we were home free.

An inventory would reveal most of what we took but, so what? The CSM had the name of the town and little more to go on. When Derek found the M107 while we were unloading the trailer, he blew his top.

"Dad, why in the hell did you get the M107?"

"Well, before I discovered the Tac-50 it seemed to be the best thing going and there's a soft mount in the case. I scrounged around until I found that Pedestal Mount you can insert the pintle into. I also got one of those heavy M2HB tripods. I noticed you were loading mostly combat mix of AP and APIT, so I presume the ball and tracer is mostly for practice or if we run low on the combat mix. You just got ball and tracer for the M240B, right?"

"That and some M1022 to go with the Mk211MP."

"Did you get more M67s?"

"A dozen cases, 360."

"I got some of my generation's grenades, the M61."

"Those are obsolete and were supposed used up or destroyed."

“Fine, I got some oblong M67s. I also found some M136 AT-4s and I know they’re obsolete too. Do you know the difference between an M26 and a M61?”

“The jungle clip?”

“Right. Have you seen any jungles around Mountain Home?”

“Not many. That doesn’t mean you can remove the jungle clips. I’ll show you how to remove and install them on both M61 and M67.”

“You mean like this?”

“PUT THAT BACK ON!”

◦

The portion of the clip that attaches to the lever is similar. The method of attaching the clip to the body of the grenade is completely dissimilar. The latest version of FM 3-23-30, Pyrotechnics and Grenades, only shows the M26A1 and it’s no longer mentioned in Obsolete Grenades.

The kill radius of the M61 is less than the M67 although it may throw pieces of piano wire further. The M67 really was an improvement because it throws shrapnel as opposed to pieces of wire and thin sheet metal. The Mk3A2 Concussion grenade is considered as an offensive grenade while the M67 Fragmentation grenade is considered as a defensive grenade. That never made any sense to me. If all you had was a M67, wouldn’t it work as well in a pill box? Maybe the concussion would be less... but the M67 has all those chunks of shrapnel bouncing off the walls of the pill box.

◦

TOM brought up an interesting thought and wondered aloud if it explained the current state of the US. Rand Paul had never served in the military nor had Barak Obama. Dubya’s Air Force Reserve service had been questioned. He did his 2 years of active duty although his service in reserve status was questionable. Bill Clinton smoked pot and participated in Vietnam War protests and organized an October 1969 *Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam* event. Bush Senior was a WWII Navy pilot who got shot down. Ronald Reagan was a movie star... Reagan was popular because he forgot to duck and cowboys are heroes.

He didn’t look good at all. They don’t use the term senile anymore, favoring dementia. It fit. On some days he couldn’t remember that the Tac-50 was too heavy for him to pick up and he hauled it out to his wheelchair before he remembered. When he started with the lightest weapons, he could sometimes get everything but the Tac-50. With the magazines downloaded by 10% he just kept them as they were, in the trailer.

The last thing he did before he called it a day was plug in his wheelchair to the re-charger and asked one of his grandchildren to bring in his long arms. He used an office cabinet for a gun safe and claimed he had the only key. I mentioned that to Derek and he showed me his copy and said that Sharon had a copy too. He then asked if I wanted his extra copy. I took it, just in case.

Despite the 2 bedrooms in the cabin and the 4 in the shelter we experienced minor crowding. Sharon and Judy, being the oldest women took over the cooking duties unless we were having Gary's Pepper Steak recipe. Rice was prepared in a rice cooker. The steak concoction consisted of thinly sliced round steak cut into pieces ~1½" long and ~¾" wide. These were browned in a small amount of shortening in a large skillet... fresh diced onions were optional... Soy sauce was added (regular or low salt). Frozen green pepper strips (actually the package had green, yellow and red) and simmered until heated through. Brown gravy mix using ½ the water called for was mixed in and allowed to thicken. The meal was served buffet style with extra Soy sauce on the side when the rice was ready.

TOM claimed he got the idea for the dish from Delmonico's in Des Moines when his Dad and Stepmother were dating and they took him out to eat. He further claimed that it was best if you use regular white rice prepared in a rice cooker with Minute Rice or Uncle Ben's both coming in a distant second. His idea of SOS was hamburger gravy thickened with a roux of butter and flour and as much milk as it took. We weren't short on instant whole milk so we had everything needed except the rice cooker. They had 2, just in case.

Sharon visited with Judy and explained about the dementia; it was an old family tradition that Gayle said his father suffered from. It occurred to me that maybe TOM didn't get along with his father because the fruit didn't fall far from the tree. Derek also told me that TOM was half crazy not knowing what happened to his older brother Damon. I hadn't given it much thought and didn't until who should appear but Santa Claus and his 8 tiny reindeer. Check that, Damon and his 2 sons, Aaron and Eric.

Britney had gotten married and her husband and she moved to somewhere on the Gulf Coast. Apparently Damon made sure all of his kids first looked for them in Mountain Home. Derek introduced me to him and told me that if we needed anything, just tell Damon and he'd find it. Damon was the dumb one, he claimed and his IQ didn't break 130 whereas Derek had him aced by at least 30 points.

This was a case of been there, done that, got the T Shirt since Derek had to attend the same schools Steve and I had to reach the rank of First Sergeant. One thing about our military was the fact that they trained you before they promoted you. You might have the rank of Sergeant First Class/Gunnery Sergeant/Master Sergeant of Chief Petty Officer but you didn't get E-8 or E-9 about without additional schooling. What's that saying? Oh yeah, all Chiefs and no Indians.

World War Four – Chapter 5

Maybe it's time to bring up the warning by the King of Saudi Arabia.

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) – The king of Saudi Arabia has warned that extremists could attack Europe and the US if there is not a strong international response to terrorism after the Islamic State group seized a wide territory across Iraq and Syria.

While not mentioning any terrorist groups by name, King Abdullah's statement appeared aimed at drawing Washington and NATO forces into a wider fight against the Islamic State group and its supporters in the region. Saudi Arabia openly backs rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad, but is concerned that the breakaway al-Qaeda group could also turn those very same weapons on the kingdom.

"If neglected, I am certain that after a month they will reach Europe and, after another month, America," he said at a reception for foreign ambassadors Friday.

Official Saudi media carried the king's comments early Saturday.

"These terrorists do not know the name of humanity and you have witnessed them severing heads and giving them to children to walk with in the street," the king said, urging the ambassadors to relay his message directly to their heads of state.

The Islamic State group has been fighting moderate rebels, other extremists and Assad's forces in Syria for years. Iraq has faced an onslaught by the Sunni extremists and their supporters since early this year, and the country continues to be roiled by instability.

While providing arms and support to Sunni militants in Syria, Saudi Arabia has denied directly funding or backing the Islamic State group.

British officials raised the country's terror threat level Friday to "severe," its second-highest level, because of developments in Iraq and Syria, but there was no information to suggest an attack was imminent. The White House has said it does not expect the US to bump up its terrorism threat warning level.

Saudi Arabia, a major US ally in the region, has taken an increasingly active role in criticizing the Islamic State group. Earlier this month, the country's top cleric described the Islamic State group and al-Qaeda as Islam's No. 1 enemy and said that Muslims have been their first victims. State-backed Saudi clerics who once openly called on citizens to fight in Syria can now face steep punishment and the kingdom has threatened to imprison its citizens who fight in Syria and Iraq.

A decade ago, al-Qaeda militants launched a string of attacks in the kingdom aimed at toppling the monarchy. Saudi officials responded with a massive crackdown that saw many flee to neighboring Yemen. In the time since, the kingdom has not seen any mas-

sive attacks, though it has imprisoned suspected militants and sentenced others to death.

Meanwhile Saturday, police in Iraq said a suicide bomber drove his explosives-laden car into an army checkpoint in the town of Youssifiyah, killing 11 people, including four soldiers, and wounding at least 24 people. Youssifiyah is 20 kilometers (12 miles) south of Baghdad.

Hours later, a roadside bomb targeting an army patrol killed two soldiers and wounded five in Latifiyah, a town 30 kilometers (20 miles) south of Baghdad.

Medical officials confirmed the casualty figures. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

You have to ask yourself about the Saudi King, a Sunni with the official and dominant form of Sunni Islam in Saudi Arabia is commonly known as Wahhabism, the same as IS. The difference I see between the Saudis and IS relates to their tactics. Saudi Arabia is one of the richest countries in the world. IS is selling off captured oil, et cetera and isn't having problems raising money for their war. They demanded a ransom of \$138 million for that journalist they captured and when they didn't get it they lopped off his head.

Then there was that report of them executing captured Syrian soldiers. These people are serious and it wouldn't surprise me to see them sneaking across the Mexican or Canadian border. Considering the current condition of the United States after 2 World Wars, the question becomes, 'can we stop them if they invade'?

My best guess is 'yes we can'. Grand had an interesting discussion of just that subject in *Normal*. And, even as a broken nation under the control of a thinly disguised Nancy Pelosi, the reformed states achieved that end.

Now I want you to remember that no bastard ever won a war by dying for his country. He won it by making the other poor dumb bastard die for his country.

Men, all this stuff you've heard about America not wanting to fight, wanting to stay out of the war, is a lot of horse dung. Americans traditionally love to fight. All real Americans love the sting of battle. When you were kids, you all admired the champion marble shooter, the fastest runner, big league ball players, the toughest boxers. Americans love a winner and will not tolerate a loser. Americans play to win all the time. I wouldn't give a hoot in hell for a man who lost and laughed. That's why Americans have never lost, and will never lose a war... because the very thought of losing is hateful to Americans.

Why is it that when you need your heroes like Patton, Leonidas I and Jefferson they're all dead and at best you can only try to emulate them? The battle at Thermopylae occurred a second time in Texas at the Alamo. For all his faults, Patton was our ultimate soldier and Jefferson one of, if not, our greatest political thinker. If Barbara Boxer, Diane

Feinstein and Nancy Pelosi had their way, the US would be left with axe handles to fight an invasion. The *Roberti-Ross Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989* was a reaction after the school shooting in Stockton. Later, when .50 BMG caliber rifles became popular for long range shooting contests, California added them to the Banned list. That piece of legislation pertained solely to the caliber of the rifle. To date, no .50BMG caliber rifle has been used by a criminal in a criminal act. They even outlawed .50BMG caliber ammo.

“Are you and the boys armed?”

“Nope; I’m on the NCIC list and the boys don’t have the money.”

“Ok, M1A Loadeds, Mossberg 590A1 shotguns, M1911/M1911A1 pistols, plus a back-up. Any thoughts on a 5.56×45mm rifle?”

“What do you have?”

“Mini-14s or Ruger SR-556s.”

“Probably the SR-556s and a knife.”

“You can use the OKC-3S bayonet as a fighting knife and we’ll dig out some Buck 110 Folding Hunters.”

“How long will that take?”

“Just as soon as you get showers and shave. Do you have a set of clean clothes?”

“Sorry.”

“We’ll give you ACU pattern MultiCams. You can wash your own clothes. When did you last eat?”

“Mary fed us when we located her in Jonesboro.”

“Will that hold you until the next meal?”

“It should. Now, where is the list of things you want me to acquire?”

“Don’t have one because we’ve done it ourselves.”

“You’re kidding.”

“We didn’t know if you’d show up... and if you did, if you could find us.”

“Mary only knew that you were in the Mountain Home area; since she’s moving back in with her folks.”

“How’s she doing?”

“I didn’t ask and she didn’t tell.”

“Are the two of you still fire and ice?”

“I don’t expect that will change.”

“What happened to Pam?”

“She is still at the farm keeping an eye on things. She said she wasn’t going to go on a wild goose chase and if I found you I could drive back and pick her up.”

“Is she equipped with firearms?”

“Pam isn’t on the NCIC list and she bought a standard M1A, a Ruger Mini-14, a Mossberg 590A1 with bayonet, a Browning Hi-Power and a compact M1911 EMP in 9mmP, all used. She has 1,000 rounds of Speer Gold Dot 124gr +P, low recoil Remington Sluggers and 8-pellet 00 buck. We also got 1,000 rounds of PMC M855 and 1,000 rounds of Federal 149gr FMJ.”

“Magazines?”

“Ten for each rifle, all 20 round, 4 extra for the Hi-Power and the same for the Springfield Armory 1911 EMP 9mm.”

“When do you plan to go after her?”

“We need a week to rest up. Then, Eric and I’ll make the trip.”

“Can’t you contact her by radio?”

“I didn’t get the Kenwood TS-2000 that you recommended.”

“Why not?”

“Rosetta wouldn’t approve the expense.”

“Take my word for it, ammunition is the least of our problems. Let’s get the 3 of you introduced to our hosts and you guys can get cleaned up.”

“Smoke, this is my eldest son Damon and his 2 boys Aaron and Eric. Guys this is our host Rollin James Reynolds and his wife Judy.”

“Your folks didn’t like you? What kind of name is Smoke?”

“I picked that up in Basic Training based on R. J. Reynolds. What did they call you, Dickhead?”

Derek interrupted and said, “No but it fits. Smoke was a Command Sergeant Major when he retired with 37 years in.”

“Why didn’t you go for 40 and get 100% retirement?”

“The rumor mill said we were scheduled for another trip to Afghanistan. I’d done 2 in Iraq and 1 in Afghanistan and that was 1 deployment too many.”

“You know how the military rumor mill works... the rumors are mostly wrong.”

“As a general rule, you’re correct Damon but as an E-9 I had it on very good authority.”

“I’m surprised they didn’t stop-loss you.”

“What branch were you in?”

“Navy as an ET PO3.”

“Either your dad or brother mentioned that you got out early on a medical.”

“Yep; and with usual Navy efficiency, my discharge was Honorable. I eventually ended up with 100% disability. Since it was a medical I had to have a representative payee. That Jeep we showed up in could have been paid for with cash but Rosetta set it up to be financed to establish my credit. We did the same thing when I got my Kubota tractor.”

“So are you a prepper?”

“I’m a member of the Zombie Squad that was based in St. Louis.”

“Anyone survive the IS attack and Russian attack?”

“Actually, most of the members who didn’t live in a target city and about half of those from St. Louis survived. We built a fruit cellar on my farm that doubled as a fallout shelter.”

“Store home canned food?”

“That and bulk grains sealed in Mylar bags with an oxygen absorber and a desiccant. We have a motorized Country Living Mill and a few other old fashioned appliances. We

put an 18ft³ upright freezer down there that will hold a hog and a side of beef. Then there are the STS, mostly from Costco and Sam's Club. We could probably last about 3 years on the stored food."

"How many people for 3 years?"

"Six. That includes Britney, her husband, Aaron, Eric, Pam and me."

"That's probably better than 95% of the survivors. And Pam has all of the weapons?"

"I can't buy a firearm because of the NCIC listing. Dad and I were just discussing that and he has a solution for that problem."

"Do you have a specialty?"

"Salvage. Dad and I are a lot alike when it comes to recovering abandoned property."

"He's written about that frequently."

"A tax auditor is similar to a cop and they know the best ways to recover abandoned property. The thing they have most in common is being sneaky."

"What's your take on what the Saudi King said?"

"I don't get it. IS and Saudi Arabia both adhere to the same sect of Islam. One would think that they wouldn't have a dispute over religion so it has to be something else. I'm not sure but it seems to me that the Saudis have the largest remaining military in the Middle East. If IS takes them out, they shouldn't have any problems with those Emirates. That would put them into Turkey in short order and once they take Turkey, they've opened the door to Europe."

"They already defeated Turkey and are in the Balkans."

"So what? How does a European distinguish a Turkmen from other Arabs? You knew that Turkey's military is the second largest in NATO with the US being the only country with a larger military?"

"Maybe before China, IS and Russia attacked we had the largest. Do you still believe that applies?"

"Our active duty military was nearly triple the size of Turkey's. On top of that, the US stores 90 B-61 bombs in Turkey of which 40 are dedicated for Turkish use. They have 6-8 Perry-class frigates and a large number of those type 212 and 214 submarines. They don't have any Burke-class Guided Missile Destroyers that I'm aware of. Presuming IS takes on the Saudis and the Emirates before they pursue further, IS could get

their butt kicked by Turkey and NATO. You're forgetting the Kurds who have an axe to grind with IS."

After Damon and his boys got cleaned up before supper, TOM went about arming them with M1A Loadeds, 590A1s with bayonets, Ruger SR-556s, M1911A1s, and Buck Folding Hunters. We weren't short on magazines and passed out 21 20 round M14 magazines, the same number of Ruger magazines and 7 8 round M1911 magazines. He also passed out 1,000 rounds of 168gr 7.62x51mm PPU match, 1,000 rounds of M855, the Brenneke slugs and the 00 and no. 4 buckshot. It would be up to them to find backup handguns.

The next day, Damon and the boys went shopping for the backup guns and found 3 Browning Hi-Power Classics with 5 13 round magazines per. They didn't get a lot of 9mmP ammo, one case, but what they did get was Speer 124gr +P Gold Dot. Over the course of the afternoon, everything was sighted in and cleaned while Derek finished sharpening the 3 bayonets. Later, DJ, Aaron and Eric got acquainted. TOM dug through his accessories and handed over Ripoff CO-21V double magazine pouches.

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Fox News Exclusive
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Online posts show ISIS eyeing Mexican border, says law enforcement bulletin

Social media chatter shows Islamic State militants are keenly aware of the porous US-Mexico border, and are "expressing an increased interest" in crossing over to carry out a terrorist attack, according to a Texas law enforcement bulletin sent out this week.

"A review of ISIS social media messaging during the week ending August 26 shows that militants are expressing an increased interest in the notion that they could clandestinely infiltrate the southwest border of US, for terror attack," warns the Texas Department of Public Safety "situational awareness" bulletin, obtained by FoxNews.com.

The three-page bulletin, entitled "ISIS Interest on the US Southwest Border" and dated August 28 was released to law enforcement on Thursday.

"Social media account holders believed to be ISIS militants and propagandists have called for unspecified border operations, or they have sought to raise awareness that illegal entry through Mexico is a viable option," states the law enforcement bulletin, which is not classified.

It notes no known credible homeland threats or specific homeland attack plot has been identified. That assertion was underscored by Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who said Friday that DHS and the FBI are "unaware of any specific, credible threat to the US homeland" from Islamic State.

Despite assurances that no threat to American soil is imminent, the watchdog group Judicial Watch said Friday that Islamic State operatives are in Juarez, just across the border from Texas, and are planning to attack the United States with car bombs.

“Agents across a number of Homeland Security, Justice and Defense agencies have all been placed on alert and instructed to aggressively work all possible leads and sources concerning this imminent terrorist threat,” Judicial Watch stated on its website.

The Texas law enforcement bulletin cites suspected fighters from the terrorist group previously known as ISIS and based in Syria and Iraq as eyeing a border crossing.

“The identities of persons operating these accounts cannot be independently verified; however the accounts were selected for monitoring based on several indications that they have been used by actual ISIS militants for propaganda purposes and collectively reach tens of thousands of followers,” states the bulletin. “One account was verified as belonging to an individual located in Mosul, Iraq.”

Some 32 Twitter and Facebook posts monitored by law enforcement over one recent week reflected interest in the southern border, according to the bulletin. The messages, which were forwarded thousands of times, included calls for jihadists to cross over from Mexico to carry out attacks and even alluded to a recent video by US activist James O’Keefe, who was recorded coming across the Rio Grande valley in an Osama bin Laden costume.

The bulletin details numerous “calls for border infiltration” on social media, including one from a militant confirmed to be in Mosul, Iraq who explicitly beckons the “Islamic State to send a special force to America across the border with Mexico.”

“This Twitter account holder, who is the administrator of an ISIS propaganda trading group, stated that the time was right for such an action because ‘the US-Mexican border is now open large numbers of people crossing,’” the bulletin said.

Another message sent out via Twitter suggested that Islamic State fighters have already entered the US via the border, warning that, as a result, “Americans in for ruin (sic).”

The Texas DPS bulletin comes on the heels of a federal Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice Joint Intelligence bulletin dated August 22, a copy of which was also obtained by FoxNews.com. That bulletin, entitled “Online Reaction but No Known Credible Homeland Threats from ISIL and Its Supporters Following US Air Strikes,” addresses potential threats to the Homeland in response to recent US air strikes on the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) targets in Iraq and the murder of journalist James Foley.

This bulletin notes that while the FBI and DHS are unaware of specific credible threats against the US from homegrown violent extremists, ISIL or other violent extremist

groups overseas “we continue to assess that violent extremists who support ISIL have demonstrated the capability to attempt attacks on US targets overseas with little-to-no warning.”

The report also says that “because of the individualized nature of the radicalization process – it is difficult to predict triggers that will contribute to [homegrown violent extremists] attempting acts of violence... lone offenders present law enforcement with limited opportunities to detect and disrupt plots, which frequently involve simple plotting against targets of opportunity.”

“FBI and DHS assess that civilian deaths reportedly associated with these US military air strikes will almost certainly be used as further examples of a perceived Western war against Islam in English-language violent extremist messaging that could contribute to [homegrown violent extremist] radicalization to violence,” the report notes.

The FBI and DHS bulletin includes a section titled “ISIL Supporters Increasingly Using Social Media to Encourage Violent Acts against US Interests.”

“ISIL and its online supporters have employed – and will almost certainly continue – Twitter “hashtag” campaigns that have gained mainstream media attention and been able to quickly reach a global audience of potential violent extremists, highlighting ISIL’s supporter message and encouraging individuals to commit acts of violence, in Iraq or in the West,” the bulletin states.

“Several of the Tweets in response to the air strikes featured original and creative use of graphics – including a photo of the ISIL flag in front of the White House – and graphically rendered images depicting desecration of US monuments and landmarks.”

Interesting, no?

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Then, there’s the term ‘Gunboat Diplomacy’ which has an interesting effect when discussed with respect to the US. The minute there’s trouble anywhere in the world, the first question the President asks is *where are the carriers?* Older nations developed the tactic but the US soon joined them using the tactic. When one might ask?

In 1793 Portugal reached a peace agreement with Algeria, ending its blockade of the Mediterranean, thus allowing Algerian ships back into the Atlantic Ocean. By late in the year eleven American merchant ships had been captured. This, combined with the actions of Britain, finally led President Washington to request Congress to authorize a navy. The Barbary Pirates began to seize American merchant ships.

The bill was presented to the House on 10 March and passed as the Naval Act of 1794 by a margin of 50-39, and without division in the Senate on the 19th. President Washington signed the Act on 27 March. It provided for acquisition, by purchase or otherwise,

of four ships to carry forty-four guns each and two ships to carry thirty-six guns each. It also provided pay and sustenance for naval officers and sailors, and outlined how each ship should be manned in order to operate them. The Act appropriated \$688,888.82 to finance the work.

Three 44 gun frigates, Constitution, President and United States were built along with 3 38 gun frigates, Congress, Constellation and Chesapeake. President Thomas Jefferson was the first President to engage in 'Gunboat Diplomacy' in the Barbary wars. *It's an Old Family Tradition*. What, you never heard of the *Great White Fleet*?

The Great White Fleet was the popular nickname for the United States Navy battle fleet that completed a circumnavigation of the globe from 16 December 1907 to 22 February 1909 by order of US President Theodore Roosevelt.

It consisted of 16 battleships divided into two squadrons, along with various escorts. Roosevelt sought to demonstrate growing American military power and blue-water navy capability. Hoping to enforce treaties and protect overseas holdings, the U.S. Congress appropriated funds to build American sea power. Beginning with just 90 small ships, over one-third of them wooden, the navy quickly grew to include new modern steel fighting vessels. The hulls of these ships were painted a stark white, giving the armada the nickname "Great White Fleet".

In as much as the US following a policy of 'Gunboat Diplomacy', that meant that about half the carriers with their support ships were out of harbor when the Russians struck the US. One lesson learned in WWII was that when it came to Cruisers and Destroyers, more was better. Each Strike Group had at least one Cruiser, depending on where the Group was patrolling. The minimum number of DDGs was 4 although 6 were more common. The Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates were either sold to other countries or decommissioned as of September 2015.

World War Four – Chapter 6

Despite the warnings given to the US, most of the survivors of WWIII, Yellowstone and WWIV dismissed the warnings about IS penetrating the Mexican and or the Canadian borders. The population had dropped precipitously and was below 35 million. The 35 million included Survivalists, Preppers and those people who were just plain lucky.

Nature's reaction to the 2 wars and Yellowstone was predictable, nuclear/volcanic winter. Until the air was cleansed of radioactivity and the volcanic ash, the planet would remain significantly below average temperatures due to the sunlight being unable to penetrate the atmosphere. Growing food in a greenhouse would be difficult because Smoke and Judy didn't have one and neither did the Ott family.

Damon and the boys rested up and, before they headed north, were capable with their new firearms. Damon should have been able to buy firearms now because the NCIC was down for the count. He and the boys seemed to be happy with 'Grandpa's' choices and would only keep an eye out for more ammunition, Folgers and toilet paper.

After a 2+ day trip back to Coulter, they packed up their possessions using a U-Haul truck and 2 trailers and headed back to Mountain Home. They made a few stops along the way on their return trip and added better backup and hideout handguns plus ammunition, Folgers Classic and Custom Roast, Charmin and those things that TOM liked that were hard to find like Cure 81 hams, Hormel thick sliced bacon, Hormel beef tamales, etc.

They stopped a few times on the return trip checking out all the communications equipment stores and added radios compatible with those that Judy and I had. They cut through Illinois on the return trip and stopped in Geneseo, Illinois and upgraded the M1As too. Each of the 4 had Super Matches, cases of magazines, the accessories like chamber brushes and tool kits that SA sold.

Illinois wasn't a 'good' state to locate ammo in so they stopped in a few Arkansas locations to our east. They actually had a little less food than what constituted a 3 year supply for 6 people. One thing they seemed to have more than enough of was boxes of Maid Rite meat with the spice packages in addition to frozen breaded pork tenderloins. They kept their freezer cold with a 12kw 'portable' diesel fueled generator.

His Kubota tractor and all the accessories were on a larger trailer pulled by the U Haul truck and the Jeep pulling one of the 2 6x12 enclosed trailers with Pam pulling the second behind her old beater. Not everyone can afford to trade cars every 2-3 years so they traded in her car for a late '90s, Dodge pickup with the Cummins 6BT engine and cross-bed fuel tank.

When they returned a week after they left I began to understand his ability to cumshaw needed goods. Since they took PRI-D and PRI-G with them, the only problem they had was getting the stale fuel from the tanks.

"I think we picked up a tail in either Illinois or Missouri. You might want to stand by to be boarded."

"Have any trouble on the trip?"

"Aside from the possible tail, we had a little trouble getting fuel from the service station tanks. We got scopes for all of the rifles along with the rings and 4th generation mounts. I hope one of you knows how to mount them and sight them in."

"I'm forgetting myself. Pam, this is Smoke and his wife Judy. When I find Sharon, Lorrie and Amy I'll introduce you to the remainder of my family. Smoke, do you have any idea where they are?"

"They went shopping and you know how some women act on shopping trips. While you were gone, we erected a storage building to keep everything out of the elements. It was bladed flat and footing poured. We erected what amounts to a pole building to enclose the space using dimension lumber and galvanized siding on the roof and sides. It has a 16' rollup door and connects to the shelter with pedestrian walkway tunnels."

"Derek working?"

"I don't know where he went. I think they're involved in hauling some singlewides to our acreage. Have you given any further thought to the warning issued by the King of Saudi Arabia and the Judicial Watch? Both seem to suggest that IS is contemplating a direct attack upon the US."

"Only a little; what do they stand to gain? There isn't a Christian in this country that would accept Islam even under a death threat. They believe that if they forfeit their life for Allah, they'll go to Paradise and most Christians believe that Jesus will look favorably at their devotion to Him. That sounds like a rock and a hard spot."

"Did you read Grand's story *Normal?*"

"Yeah, it must be nice to have money, 1,500 acres in Colorado and a gun collection that's larger than Dad ever had if he kept every gun he ever owned. You've got to take a critical view on some of that stuff my old man puts out. I don't doubt he wants the firearms he describes. However, he doesn't have the money to buy them."

"Actually he has most of the things he wants because when my friend Steve died, I gave Steve's collection to your Dad and Derek."

"What killed him?"

"World War Three and the fact the bimbo he was hooked up with was an alcoholic and we wouldn't give her any more booze."

“Dad’s familiar with bimbos and he beat booze in 1999. With his diabetes as bad as it is, he won’t drink because he’s afraid the booze would kill him almost as fast as a bullet. I’m surprised he’s lasted this long. It may be that he’s just too bullheaded to lie down and die. Did you fix him up with those H&K rifles, the 416 and 417?”

“Everyone here has one or both and at least one of those AG-C/EGLM grenade launchers. We’ll get to that subject once you get settled in. I just wish that H&K had given the HK417 a different rifling twist of 1:10. They claim the rifles will shoot anything from 147gr to 175gr bullets accurately.”

“How many of the long range large caliber rifles do we have?”

“Five, 2 Tac-50s, 1 Tac-338 and 2 M107A1.”

“It sounds to me like the only thing you’re missing is field artillery.”

“I was 11B and later 11Z, infantry. I don’t know much about artillery other than indirect fire can be very useful at times. Your brother was in Counter-Fire and probably knows more than I do on the subject.”

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Thirty million American survivors was 30 million too many in the view of the Islamic State. The only exception they’d be willing to make was to Muslims in the US if those Muslims happened to follow their party line. The Caliph was generous in assuming that maybe a quarter of the surviving American Muslims might adopt their beliefs. He overlooked the fact that many of the Muslims in America were in the cities they bombed. If they didn’t bomb the city, the Russians probably had. On top of that, the Russians had problems with their own Muslims, like in Chechnya.

Not one to be constrained by the impracticality of his actions, he decided to invade the US via the Gulf of Mexico. They had wrapped up what remained of the Middle East and controlled Turkey. Europe and Asia could wait until they put the Americans to the sword. Given that the Americans had been victims of WWIII, Yellowstone, their 10 nukes and WWIV at the hands of Russia, America should be an easy target. The survivors would probably be found in small groups and, if armed, probably had hunting rifles.

He discounted suggestions that the only living Americans were Survivalists/Preppers and the Lucky. He’d been informed that they’d missed the American President because he wasn’t in the Capital and had been visiting a firearms manufacturer. Those crazy Americans did like their guns... he’d been told.

The Caliph was aware of William S. Lind’s description of 4th Generation War. They had adopted the Insurgent’s tactics and had done well with them. It didn’t occur to him that the USMC had adopted Lind’s philosophy in Fleet Marine Field Manual One. He didn’t

know that one of the survivors living in Arkansas was a William S. Lind fan. No matter, if they ran into someone like that, he'd get the Marie Antoinette treatment and lose his head.

"But first they have to catch us," TOM thought.

The example of 4th Generation War that TOM had included in several stories was *Operation David*. He had Lind's paper on 4th GW as an article on his computer along with the Marine Corps Fleet Marine Field Manual in a separate directory from his Army Field Manuals.

The small group in Mountain Home, Arkansas was more prepared for a 4th GW and any of the other types of warfare. They operated out of a 'secure' location that was on the map, but difficult to find unless one knew where to look. They were very well equipped with necessary matériel and supplies. They combined the latest generations of weapons with weapons from 140 years in the past. They had 3 individuals who had experience as high ranking NCOs. One of those individuals he had on call his CSM who was a dyed in the wool survivalist who had raised a small force from the survivors of their command. The second NCO was a retired Army CSM he was the third, a First Sergeant.

Fourth generation warfare is normally characterized by a violent non-state actor (VNSA) fighting a state. This fighting can be physically done, such as by modern examples Hezbollah or the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). In this realm, the VNSA uses all three levels of fourth generation warfare. These are the physical (actual combat; it is considered the least important), mental (the will to fight, belief in victory, etc.) and moral (the most important, this includes cultural norms, etc.) levels.

Fourth generation warfare goals: survival; and, to convince the enemy's political decision makers that their goals are either unachievable or too costly for the perceived benefit.

Lind cites H. John Poole who is an American military author and Marine combat veteran of Vietnam, specializing in small unit and individual tactics. His books focus on the role, training, and skills of the individual infantry soldier and Marine, and on those of the combat NCOs (non-commissioned officers). Poole has focused on terrorist and insurgent tactics, as well as the counter-insurgent tactics to defeat them.

Poole accurately described what would happen when we entered the war in Afghanistan. As a result he sold a lot of books to military NCOs who wanted to know what they were up against.

How do you convince the enemy's decision makers that their goals are either unachievable or too costly for the perceived benefit? There comes the time when there is no easy answer and you kill them. But, you say, Iran tried that and look what happened to Iran. That is a case of opposing religious fanatics. TOM wasn't familiar with Poole and neither was Derek, but I had several of his books.

“Who among you is familiar with 4th Generation War?” TOM asked.

“I’ve read Lind’s paper on the subject and some of Poole’s books, TOM,” I replied.

“Derek, you and I discussed it. Did you any follow-up research?”

“No Dad, sorry.”

“Damon?”

“Me either.”

“On the off chance that IS actually decides to invade the US, we’re going to be forced to fight a 4th GW. I’ll print off what I have if Smoke can locate those books he mentioned. I’m not going to be a lot of help due to my age and condition. Can you get in touch with your CSM Derek?”

“Probably, no promises.”

“Any chance he’s read about 4th GW?”

“He may well have since my unit did 2 tours in Afghanistan.”

“Didn’t you tell me he had a bunker full of ammo at his place?”

“If you know that, I must have. When did I tell you about that?”

“We were discussing the McMillan Tac-50 and Mk 211.”

“And I told you that getting Mk 211 was possible didn’t I?”

“You do remember?”

“Vaguely, yes.”

“Ok, we aren’t short on large caliber sniping rifles and ammo. That gives us an advantage. One of the common booby traps in ‘Nam was the grenade in the can setup. If we can get enough grenades and empty cans, we could set those up.”

“TOM, I have a dozen cases of those M49A1 trip flare warning devices with a light radius of 300 meters.”

“We may need them Smoke. How many are there in a case?”

“Thirty-two.”

“Then, you must have 384?”

“Minus 4 that are currently deployed around the cabin.”

“Have they been tripped?”

“Not that I know of.”

“Then, you still have 384. A suggestion only... Derek and you take more of them and circle the cabin. If you identify additional locations, deploy more.”

“Any other suggestions?”

“Use those M61s to setup grenades in cans. Since those grenades are obsolete and probably date to the late ‘60s or early ‘70s, be careful out there.”

“Anything else?”

“Are there any staples that we can acquire? How good is the fuel supply? You had 60,000 gallons for the single 30kw you started with, so do we need 8 additional 30,000 gallon tanks for 4 additional generators? Now would be a good time to look for them since we can empty them into the delivery trucks, haul them here, bury them and plumb them all together.”

“Where are we going to find 240,000 gallons of propane?”

“Around? We’ll put Damon and Eric on that. And get it 6,000 gallons at a time on every trip from whatever source we locate.”

The 30,000 gallon propane tanks mostly came from farmers who used propane in grain dryers. We decided to wait on installing them until we had all 8. When that occurred, we dug a very large hole and set the tanks in place about 6’ apart like the 2 previous tanks. We back filled first half layer with gravel and then earth to just shy of the top and plumbed them together.

Damon and Eric had about half the needed propane to fill the tanks spotted. While they hauled, Derek and DJ went looking for more.

Over the course of a month, the tanks were filled. I doubt Gary, Sharon, Judy or I will live to see the day when the tanks are empty. We could recharge the battery banks with a single 30kw generator, it just took time. It took a whole lot less time running all five generators. Of course we had those 4 new wind turbines to install and each singlewide would have a similar power setup as the cabin after we installed the 3 battery banks and inverter/charge controllers.

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Judy had spent any of her 'free time' listening to the ham net. A ham from El Paso, Texas broadcast to anyone listening that a large group of 'Méxicans' had arrived at several locations along the Gulf Coast. He was concerned because they definitely weren't speaking Spanish.

"Does anyone speak Arabic or Farsi?"

"I don't speak it TOM, but I heard Arabic plenty when I was in Iraq. Why do you ask?"

"Maybe those 'Méxicans' who don't speak Spanish, speak Arabic or Farsi."

"Afghans speak a version of Farsi called Dari so I'd probably recognize either. There are many languages spoken in Afghanistan, so I could be wrong."

"When Derek was in Kosovo, he picked up a little French from the Foreign Legion and a little German from the Krauts. I'm sure he must have heard some Muslims speaking Arabic."

"You're wrong dad, I only heard Arabic in Iraq. I recognize it but don't understand it."

"TOM, I'm in the same boat, I recognize Arabic and Dari but don't know what they're saying. We had linguists to translate for us."

"How do you know if the linguists are correctly translating what the person is saying?"

"That's where trust comes in, right Derek?"

"That and who the translator works for."

Having trouble following the conversation? It's me, Smoke, at first, followed by TOM, followed by me and closed by Derek. You ought to hear the conversations when Damon, Aaron, Eric and DJ are involved... you need a program to know who is speaking. They watched an old movie on the DVD tonight, *Ender's Game*. I read the book and didn't care for the movie. It was well acted and everything but it shows just how low mankind can go to defeat a perceived enemy.

Ender performed Xenocide on the Buggers who were called the Formics in the movie. The Formics, also known as Buggers, are a fictional insect-like alien species from the *Ender's Game* series of science fiction novels by Orson Scott Card. Formic suggests ants.

Xenocide (plural xenocides)

1. (Science fiction) the genocide of an entire alien species.

2. (US, colloquial) the intentional killing of an entire foreign (plant or animal) species.

If it's up to that bunch from the Middle East, they'll perform genocide on the Americans. On the same subject from a different direction, TOM says we'll only use sticks and stones when we run out of ammo. It's not like we have unlimited ammunition (and we don't reload) it boils down to how long it takes to reload the cowboy guns. He has a point about cowboy guns and his friend Jerry must agree with him because he wrote *Cowboy*. In fact, TOM pointed the story *Cowboy* out to me to prove a point.

Judy just told me that she heard another ham and those 'Méxicans' are landing from St. Petersburg, Florida to El Paso, Texas. She also heard something that sounded to her like Shrimp Boats. The first ham was from El Paso and the second from St. Petersburg; so I'm assuming as of the moment until we hear from more hams.

"Rollin, I can confirm Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Another report said resistance from survivors was stiff and they hadn't made it to Georgia yet."

"Let me get with Derek, TOM, Damon and the grandsons. Did you tell TOM?"

"Yes, I saw him first."

"Did he say Lock and Load?"

"No he didn't."

"It must not be time yet. I think I'll see if Derek has a way to contact CSM Haskins."

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"First off fellas, they've landed in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. Apparently they haven't pushed far enough inland to get to Georgia."

"Do you have a count?"

"Sorry Derek, I sure don't. What are the chances of you contacting higher... say CSM Haskins?"

"It depends on where they are; if they're at the bunker, good. Otherwise I really don't know. He has a HF radio in his pickup. If they took the HMMWVs, they might not have transferred it because of the different voltage. There was some talk a long time back about adding a pair of 12 volt batteries in series with each other parallel to the main battery. If they did that, they may have moved the radio."

"If you can reach him, do you think we could join forces?"

“To be honest that depends on the mood he’s in. We might need to give up some of what we took from Fort Chaffee.”

“For instance?”

“The M107A1.”

“Nothing else?”

“I think not because that bunker is well stocked with rockets, both hand and 40mm grenades and all the ammo that was supposedly expended on the firing range. We left behind enough of the M2A1s, Mk19s, and M240Bs to equip the HMMWVs without CROWS.”

“Are the HMMWVs up-armored?”

“Only about 60 percent are up-armored. They can get more of the up-armored versions from Fayetteville if they choose to make the trip. Danny Sesker was the gunner on an up-armored HMMWV pulling escort duty when an IED went off beside the vehicle. It cut him into pieces and he never knew what hit him.”

“What did you do over there?”

“We were all volunteers with the Iowa Army National Guard’s Troop C, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry in LeMars, Iowa serving as Task Force 49th Military Police Personnel Security Detachment as part of a security force that protected high-profile people in Iraq, such as ambassadors and diplomats. That bunch from the Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kansas showed up to protest at his funeral. Thanks to a law the Governor signed after Danny was killed and before his funeral, they were kept more than 500’ from the funeral.

“We were lucky, I guess. We only lost Danny to an EFP.”

World War Four – Chapter 7

We continued salvage operations to an extent, getting extra diesel fuel and stabilizing it with PRI-D along with extra gasoline stabilized with PRI-G and Kerosene stabilized with PDI-D. While we went to get lengths and distances to secure extra everything, Derek drove down and hooked up with CSM Haskins.

CSM Haskins and his group had, in fact, gone to Fayetteville and picked up additional up-armored HMMWVs and moved several tankers of JP-8 to his property. When they compared notes the First Sergeant and Command Sergeant Major determined that some swapping around was called for. We would have to give up the M107A1 and they would have to give up 40 cans of Mk211MP. They had extra M240B with tripods and we would get 2 of those with 10,000 rounds of belted 7.62x51mm ammo. Instead of a single spare barrel, each machinegun that used the pre-headspaced barrels, the M240 and the M2A1, would have 4 spares.

We gained some extra belted 40mm grenades in exchange for other belted 40mm grenades they were short on. One item we didn't have any of was the M18A1 Claymore mines. They had so many they could put out a triple tier using only a third of their inventory. We ended up with half of the remaining non-deployed mines allowing us to set out a triple tier around the building area with half of what we had held back as replacements.

We had sold the IS short because they seemed to be able to identify groups, move to them and attack inflicting heavy or total casualties while sustaining minimal (?) losses. After pondering the issue for a while, we concluded they were using radio direction finding equipment to locate new groups. It might be old technology but it was working for the IS.

Although we had access to SINCGARS (Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System) model RT-1523G (ASIP) in addition to the amateur radios, business band radios and citizens band radios, they weren't trying to eavesdrop; they were just looking for any radio signals. They were using directional antennas and triangulation to find targets. And, it was working. It told us that our enemy was using their heads for something more than a place to carry a hat.

The one piece of information that would have done us the most good was the size of their units and whether the units were detached and free ranging or controlled by a central command. Detached free ranging units could be a problem because each unit would move at a speed dictated by the outcome of their previous action. Hams were slowly going off the air. This could mean one of two things. First they figured out that IS was using radio direction finding or, two that IS had located the group and taken it out.

We had a decision to make. Should we detach and seek them out, ambushing them when we found a group or should we remain where we were and use the home turf advantage? TOM wasn't exactly what you'd call a lean mean fighting machine and was

barely mobile. Sharon was about in the same boat and while Judy and I were mobile; we weren't getting any younger. I visited with TOM and got his opinion and spoke to Sharon next. Damon and Pam were together so they were next on my list. I finally took what I'd heard to Derek and got his opinion before I shared what I'd learned from the others. It was decided to remain where we were and let them come to us.

It was possible, even probable, that if we stayed home and laid low they might overlook us entirely. Derek and CSM Haskins had never reached a decision. We didn't want to contact them because of the possibility of giving away our position to someone if they were actually using radio direction finding.

Instead, we carefully surveyed the 4 acres looking for positions which would give us the maximum advantage if someone attacked. In the process, we finally got around to placing the additional M49A1 trip flare warning devices, bringing the count to 16. We identified locations to place the grenades in a can booby trap but held off for the moment. We decided to place the cans, insert the grenades with the pin still in and string the tripwire. When it was time to activate them, all we'd have to do was pull the pin and slide the grenade in. Until we needed them, no kid would be killed because 'they forgot' where the bobby traps were.

Derek gave Judy a frequency on 10 meters and asked her to monitor it for him. If a call came for 'Spence' she should acknowledge with "F Battery" and take down any and all information but to make no further acknowledgement. He then explained to the 2 of us that F Battery was his counter fire radar intercept unit and it would be CSM Haskins with suggestions/instructions. The short "F Battery" reply wouldn't give a listener time to use their direction finding equipment to locate us. Furthermore the recorded location for F Battery wasn't Fort Chaffee but Fayetteville with the roster showing they were based in Fayetteville. In fact, all the training occurred at Fort Chaffee.

Damon came dragging in a HF scanning receiver and got it hooked into the same AOR SA7000 30kHz-2000MHz receive only whip antenna use by the AOR receiver. It wasn't that far to Fort Chaffee and his friend's bunker. Damon lowered the tower, installed the D130J, SINCGARS antenna, coaxial cables, straightened the tower and raised it back to full height.

My radio tower was a US Towers HDX-689MDPL Tower with 4 standoffs, the heavy duty rotor, 20' chromolly mast, RCM-1000 remote control, MDPL-1000 drive motor. I think I told you that before? The chromolly mast, mounted above the rotor, carried a Mosley PRO-96. One standoff had a Deviant SP $\frac{5}{8}$ wave CB antenna, a second the Business Band Vertical, the third the AOR antennas mentioned earlier with one standoff as a spare, intended to be used for a SINCGARS antenna. The second beam was a 2 meter, 70cm and 23cm yagi. Mounted above the beams was a MFJ-1798 10 band vertical. You probably recognize the equipment because it was high on TOM's list of communications gear.

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When IS crossed the Arkansas border, Judy got the call for Spence. She acknowledged as instructed and turned on the tape recorder in case she missed something. The 'Méxicans' had entered Arkansas via Highway 71, Highway 63/167 and Highway 65. Looking at a map, we saw they had entered west, central and eastern Arkansas. The suggestion was for us to ambush the center group while Haskins ambushed the western group and another group he was in contact with ambushed the eastern group.

Well, so much for a static defense. After a confab, it was decided that Damon, Derek, DJ, Aaron, Eric, TOM and I would handle the ambush while Judy, Sharon, Pam, Amy and Lorrie kept the property guarded. Audrey and Udell would watch over (baby sit) Elizabeth, Joshua and Thomas locked down in the shelter. That didn't go over well because Elizabeth and Audrey wanted to join the women and Udell was a better shot than any of the rest. Joshua threw a temper tantrum at being excluded. Given Tommy's age, someone had to be with him in the shelter and Josh got elected.

That put 7 of us on the road and left 10 at home. Considering the experience of both groups, we were more powerful than those at home while they had the home turf advantage, the M49A1 trip flares and grenades in cans. If nothing else, Josh could lock Tommy in the shelter and use one of the HK416s. Given Josh's mental condition due to his mom and dad getting divorced and him blaming himself, he might turn out to be a real badass.

The 3 mobile groups gained an advantage in being mobile; they could use radio communications again. They had to be brief SITREPs given while they were on the move. It beat a sharp stick in the eye. The overall control of the operations fell to CSM Haskins who had the largest group.

The mobile communications between the groups were made using the SINCGARS radios set to the same encryption code which changed daily. CSM Haskins had the largest group and his intent was to move east after dealing with his group of 'Méxicans'. His group was in place and had an L set ambush in place before the ragheads put in an appearance. It turned out to be an easy decision because the group was toting an black ISIL/ISIS/IS flag.

When they'd completed their ambush and gathered the weapons, magazines, ammo and other ordnance, Haskins radioed Derek with a SITREP and received a SITREP in return. We were a little further south (El Dorado) than they were (Texarkana) and had just spotted the black flag. Derek cut the call short and we did our thing using the heavy rifles on the vehicles and the small arms on the individuals. The call was 'no mercy' and like Thomas said in *Normal, What survivors?*

Nobody puked, except TOM. He didn't have anything in his stomach and the 'dry heaves' soon stopped. What came up was bloody. The bunch was armed with AK-47s, AKMs and a couple of Russian SVD-S rifles with folding butt stocks and polymer furniture. Their handguns were American Colt 1911s style and included Taurus PT1911s.

At least this bunch of people took care of their weapons as they only showed the use of the current battle albeit short. This was one of those 5% times when full auto is useful, ergo, an ambush. After we collected their stuff, we set about pulling the vehicles off the road. Before we finished, CSM Haskins and his group caught up with us.

“Kill them all?”

“Not in the initial battle, but TOM went around shot them all in the head after he got over puking. The way he cussed at them, reminded me of a sailor I knew once. Small group, only 14, but they have weapons for 18 and they had American handguns.”

“Ours had some 9mm and some .45ACP.”

“Ours only had .45s, Colt and Taurus.”

While we finished up, Haskins got on the radio and got a SITREP on the third group on Hwy 65. At first he couldn't get a reply. After about 25 minutes, he heard from them during a lull in fighting. This opposing group was about the size of the group Haskins took out combined with the group we took out. The radio conversation was short consisting of GPS coordinates, some minor details and a message to hurry.

His third group on Hwy 65 was about 14 people and the IS had come up river on a barge and disembarked near Eudora. They had vehicles and apparently had brought them with them because they had fuel trailers.

HUMMWVs aren't built for speed. Figure 55-70 mph depending on the condition of the engine, the load, etc. We weren't loaded down all that much, having 3 HMMWVs among us with a driver and someone manning the CROWS. We had refueled before we got the SITREP and were eastbound on US 82 when it came. Therefore everyone heard what the caller had to say and the gunfire in the background. Our 3 were up-armored with a CROWS II so we weren't at maximum payload. We were pushing maybe 63-65 mph. The distance involved was ~104 miles... 96 minutes at 65 mph and 99 minutes at 63.

One of the guys knew a shortcut and we picked up Arkansas 8 at the south edge of Hamburg and took a more direct path. He said we should save 15 to 20 minutes, depending on road conditions. Interestingly enough, it put us behind IS.

Creighton Abrams and Chesty Puller have something in common; each said something to the effect of Abrams – *They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards*; Puller – *They are in front of us, behind us, and we are flanked on both sides by an enemy that outnumbers us 29:1. They can't get away from us now! Great. Now we can shoot at those bastards from every direction.*

The majority of our third group and the opposing third group were reloading magazines with a few on each side keeping the others' heads down. Most of the ragheads were

concentrating on shooting at our people, watching for flanking maneuvers or reloading magazines. It must not have occurred to them to check their six.

CSM Haskins got the First Sergeant in charge of our third group on the radio and told him where we were and to get behind good cover. When the radios clicked twice about a minute later, we opened fire. It may not seem like much, but we wiped out about a platoon of the IS troops and confiscated their firearms, ammunition and ordinance over the course of 3 battles. Our most serious casualties were 2 people who had taken a bullet in the plate of their Interceptor Body Armor, one in the front and one in the back. Both were shot in this particular battle.

CSM Haskins, First Sergeant Ott and First Sergeant Jones got together to consult. After the meeting, each contacted their home base and indicated that they were successful and on the way home. The contacts were very brief in case there were more ragheads somewhere nearby. The message was encrypted and generally, *we're on the way home and no one injured or killed*. If the opposing force, IS for sure now, locked on the location their broadcasts were made from, the most they would find was the bodies of their teammates.

◦

All's fair in love and war. (The earliest form of this quote can be found in John Lyly's *Euphues* (1578). In *Euphues* the quote goes "The rules of fair play do not apply in love and war." In other words, *They've got us surrounded again, the poor bastards*. What about no plan survives contact with the enemy?

Moltke the Elder, Chief of the General Staff from 1857–88, modernized the Prussian Army during his tenure. Moltke's main thesis was that military strategy had to be understood as a system of options since only the beginning of a military operation was planable. As a result, he considered the main task of military leaders to consist in the extensive preparation of all possible outcomes. His thesis can be summed up by two statements, one famous and one less so, translated into English as No plan of operations extends with certainty beyond the first encounter with the enemy's main strength (no plan survives contact with the enemy). Strategy is a system of expedients.

◦

When we pulled in at the acreage, everyone came out to meet us.

"How did it go?"

"Coffee on? Derek can cover all three actions."

"You all have coffee, now give."

Derek started into it with, "CSM Haskins group ran into a slightly larger group at Texarkana than we did at El Dorado. They eliminated the opposing force with zero KIA, zero WIA and zero MIA. They moved east to join us just as we cleaned up our group of 14. We successfully ambushed them with zero-zero-zero on our side. We also established that Dad isn't a sociopath because he puked everything out of his nearly empty stomach. When CSM joined us, we were ready to head to Eudora, the site of the eastern group.

"The eastern group under First Sergeant Jones was up against a group about the size of our combined groups and they were locked in combat. One of the guys in Haskins group knew a shortcut and we were able to arrive on 65 behind the opposing force. Their OpSec was awful and we took the rest of them out. The final count on our side was zero-two-zero. The injured guys took a bullet in the plate, so the worst they suffered is blunt force trauma.

"After a brief discussion among the leadership, everyone headed home."

TOM still looked a little green around the gills, if the truth be told. He sat there staring at the floor and when he looked up; his eyes had that 1000-yard stare.

"If it's all the same to you," TOM said, "I'm not going on any more missions that may arise. I guess I saw the elephant and that mofo is bigger than me. I can man the radios and lend a hand in defending our home turf but, that's it. I'm too old for this crap."

[The phrase "seeing the elephant" is an Americanism (or American phrase) of the mid to late 19th century. Seen throughout the United States in the Mexican-American War, the Texas Santa Fe Expedition, the American Civil War, the 1849 Gold Rush, and the Westward Expansion Trails (Oregon Trail, California Trail, Mormon Trail), the mythical elephant was an extremely popular way of expressing an overwhelming emotion. During the 20th century the phrase faded from popularity but when historians started taking note of its recurrence in historical newspapers, journals, and literature they often summed the elephant up too quickly and categorized it as a negative experience. Desolation and sadness may have been one trait of seeing the elephant, but it was certainly not the only or even the most prevalent. More often, American pioneers of the Overland Trails talk of the excitement and anticipation of heading west to see the elephant. Elephant "sightings" often begin with excitement and high ideals only to be disappointing or disenchanting. The high excitement followed by the low frustrations are what epitomize the elephant as something most wanted to "see" but few would have wanted to "see" again.]

"I think I'll get a good night's sleep, have breakfast, clean my guns, reload my magazines and start a new story about World War III, Yellowstone and World War IV."

TOM cleaned his weapons monthly or every time they were fired. He didn't shoot the Super Match much to avoid dismantling it. With the passage of time, he shot less and less. He managed to keep his knives sharp by running the 8,000 grit DMT stone along

the blade instead of across the blade. His stomach was bothering him and he had Damon locate some Carafate in a pharmacy.

Even with the Carafate, he began eating less with the passage of time. He was also dropping weight, just a little at a time. He even had trouble with some of the soft foods and had mostly turned to soups, certain casseroles and crust-less bread. I'd seen him wipe his mouth at certain times and I'm positive the Kleenex was soaked with blood. I didn't say anything to the others because I decided it wasn't my place.

We never experienced a direct attack on the acreage, so we were only expending ammo on keeping ready for whatever came next. At TOM's direction, Damon and Aaron made a trip to Phoenix and cleaned out Cold Steel, getting everything including their spears. After they returned, he had them locating Pyrodex and primers. When that failed to turn up any more goods, he had them switch to compound bows and arrows with broadheads.

One night after supper, he took me aside and asked if I had any Jack Daniels Single Barrel in Medicine Cabinet 2. When I asked why, he told me that his stomach had been bothering for quite a while and he just wanted to kill the pain. It was his sobriety and it wasn't my place to say he couldn't break it. He had only one shot out of the bottle.

"I think I'd like SOS and eggs for breakfast," he said and then turned in. I left the bottle out.

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It was a good plan, but he never woke up. When we told Sharon, she had a heart attack, dead before she hit the floor. That presented a problem of sorts because TOM wanted to be cremated and Sharon had never said. There weren't any undertakers to embalm bodies so it was decided to give the 2 our version of a Viking funeral, without the boat. Ranger boats don't burn worth a crap.

We went back to the location of the guy who sold me firewood and got some hardwood logs plus softwood firewood and built the pyre. It was a good sized stack of wood when we finished assembling it in the Wal-Mart parking lot. We laid them out on the top of the pyre and got the softwood going with a little kerosene. Then, we backed off in case the smoke drew unwanted company. We bid the adieu from on far.

Amy and Lorrie shed tears for their mom while Damon and Derek and children mostly shed tears for Gary. Derek later explained to Judy and me, "Damon and I considered Sharon our second mother and had strong feelings for her. Our dad was just our dad and we loved him wholeheartedly. Lorrie had about the same feelings for dad as we had for Sharon but Amy hated him beyond understanding."

"So, where do you go from here?"

“Charles City,” Damon answered. “Grandpa didn’t trust dad and dad’s share of the estate was in a trust fund. So were going to Charles City to see if First Citizens National Bank is still around. If they are, well get the trust monies. Sharon, Derek and I were the beneficiaries. We may or may not divide Sharon’s share between Lorrie and Amy if there’s anything to divide.”

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